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SAUDIS SUPPORT LEBANESE RECONCILIATION ATTEMPTS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 376, 5 May 84 p 12

[Article by Sulayman Nimr: "Saudi Arabia Supports Any Cabinet Approved by Lebanese"]

[Text] Riyadh--Political observers in Riyadh have noticed that no official comment or statement has been issued in the Saudi capital on the formation of the new Lebanese cabinet under the chairmanship of Rashid Karami, even though the kingdom has played a well-known role in the efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis and to open the doors of dialogue between the disputing Lebanese parties.

The absence of an official Saudi comment on the formation of the new Lebanese cabinet has motivated some political observers to raise the likelihood that there is some sort of lack of optimism on the part of the Saudis vis-a-vis the possibilities of the success of the new cabinet to lead Lebanon to the shore of safety.

AL-MUSTAQBAL has asked an informed Saudi source about the reasons for the failure to issue the comment expected of the kingdom on the formation of the new cabinet. In reply, the source said: "This does not mean that there are reservations against the cabinet. The kingdom has, as is well known, sought and still seeks to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis that satisfies all. Therefore, the kingdom, added the Saudi source, supports any step agreed upon by the Lebanese to end the disagreements and disputes among them. The success in forming a new cabinet on which all the parties involved agree is something which the kingdom cannot but support, exerting efforts to overcome all the obstacles facing it."

The statements made by the Saudi source to AL-MUSTAQBAL last Tuesday came to reaffirm other statements made on Monday by a prominent Saudi official in reply to a question by AL-MUSTAQBAL on the extent to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would go in its efforts and endeavors to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis. The Saudi official's statements reaffirmed that Riyadh will continue its endeavors as long as "it sees that hopes still loom on the horizon for a solution to the Lebanese crisis." The Saudi official pointed out how King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz is interested in personally following up on any developments cropping up in the Lebanese situation, citing as an example King Fahd having talked to him on the phone that morning for 40 minutes with the topic of conversation developments in the situation in Lebanon.

BUILDINGS IN GULF THREATENED BY CEMENT EROSION

Cement 'Cancer'

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 59, Apr 84 pp 40-44

[Article by Rashid Hasan: "A Serious Problem Is Confronting the Gulf in the 1980's: Cement 'Cancer'"]

[Text] This investigation contains no attempt to frighten anyone or dramatize the real situation and the problem. Rather, it is a deliberate and objective inquiry. If there is anything shocking about it, its source is the actual situation and the obscure future facing the "investments of the age." Billions of dollars have been invested in the construction sector in the Gulf. Many times, the money was invested without the necessary reserves.

The result is a truly worrisome phenomenon: cement is "dying" and buildings are growing old before their time in a region extending along the shore of the Arabian Gulf. This phenomenon has a self-evident human and economic dimension of great importance. Despite the delicate nature of the subject, we have preferred, out of a sense of responsibility, to consider the matter calmly. We hope it will attract the interest it deserves, and that it will be discussed in a manner that will increase awareness of the phenomenon and assist in confronting it. Therefore, AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL presents this modest contribution. With this investigation, it opens the discussion in the presence of Arab experts and officials concerned with the subject.

Here is a question: what is the most serious economic problem confronting the Gulf states in the coming decade?

Answer: it is neither the problem of falling oil revenues nor that of budget squeezing. Indeed, it is nothing of this kind. Rather, it is a problem of a different sort that has not occurred to anyone. No one has taken it into account. It is the problem of cement corrosion in the Gulf and the frightening and rapid aging of buildings and installations. Every day, signs of weakness and imminent collapse appear in buildings once thought to have been constructed to last for decades, if not for centuries.

The region afflicted with the "cement disease" is extensive. In practical terms, it takes in all the areas lying on the Arabian Gulf, from the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait, in addition to the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bahrain. The problem is still

in its infancy. Most buildings and utilities were put up recently, during the 1970's. The ugly disease flowing through the veins of the ash-colored "cement oases" has still not come to the surface. Or one could say that it has just begun to appear in the form of gaping cracks, veins, and wrinkles. Balconies have begun to fall onto automobiles, and buildings whose inhabitants flee or refuse to even enter have begun to collapse slowly, since they were built on sand. It is certain that each year will see new events of this kind. The problem, in all its dimensions, has to appear soon.

The main aspect of this issue is not the safety of people, although this matter has been raised and will be raised more often in the future. In addition, there is the question of what will become of the billions of dollars that have been invested in construction, installations, and infrastructure and will be invested in the future. In addition, enormous sums will have to be spent to treat the disease and preserve an investment that is aging and dying far before its time.

Unfortunately, the rapid development of the Gulf prevented the problem from attracting attention early on. The region's governments began to carry out scientific studies of the problem only recently, and the results of this research have remained limited. They have had practically no effect on the policies applied to contractors and the rules imposed on them. However, a big change recently began to occur. Several detailed and stimulating studies on the magnitude and difficulty of the problem and the seriousness of its results have been published. It seems that these studies have created a true state of excitement in the bodies concerned with the problem in both the governmental and private sector. Serious and enthusiastic efforts are now being made to achieve rapidly some practical results on the level of policy and supervision. Moreover, preparations are being made for an important scientific conference on the subject, which could be held in the fall of this year or the beginning of the next. It has also been suggested that an international symposium be held to discuss the problem in one of the capitals of the Gulf. This would give the research done and the efforts exerted on this level greater scientific, psychological, and official support.

The cement disease in the Gulf is due to a basic phenomenon: the oxidation of reinforcing iron. This process occurs rapidly. As a result, the iron inside the concrete swells. This exerts pressure that causes the concrete to fragment and crack. As soon as the cement covering begins to break, the way is left open for the factors behind corrosion to take effect very quickly.

Factors such as humidity, salinity, and dust containing chlorides or sulfates attack the core of the cement structure and cause it to break down with infectious speed. Only 3 years after the appearance of fragmentation, the disease can be generalized and the signs of collapse can appear in the building. In most cases that have been studied, the oxidation of the iron began inside and spread outward. It was caused by the fact that humidity and salinity infiltrated the supporting iron before the concrete was poured. In some cases, primary materials that were highly contaminated with salts or that could not resist breakage were used. Examples of such materials are plaster, sand that was contaminated with salts and not washed before being

used, and mixing water contaminated as a result of evaporation or other factors. However, oxidation of the iron and the initiation of the disease often occur because the cement surface is first broken as a result of other direct causes. Gross errors could be committed in the mixing process or the leveling process. The mixture could be unbalanced or contain a lot of water. The primary materials could be of poor quality and subject to rapid disintegration. The process of irrigating and sufficiently chilling the cement could be neglected, given the extremely hot weather in the Gulf (some experts believe that the way in which the cement is irrigated in the first hour after it has been leveled could by itself add or delete 15 years of the cement's life). Moreover, iron oxidation could result from the fact that the cement covering is not thick enough. It could also take place if the supporting iron is exposed after the concrete has been poured and if the iron has been exposed from the start to disintegrating and oxidizing factors from the outside.

The mere appearance of the symptoms of disintegration and fragmentation in a building means that it has been infected. The harsh climate of the Gulf is characterized by an unusual mix of extreme temperature fluctuations, intense sunlight, high humidity, and air laden with salts or dust containing corrosive factors. Under such conditions, an afflicted building can rarely hold up for long. The disease, which might begin inconspicuously, spreads as rapidly as cancer and condemns the structure in a short period, just as occurs in the case of human cancer. The discovery of the disease when it is still in its early stage might be beneficial, especially with regard to delaying its spread. At great expense, the life of the patient may be lengthened. However, no matter what efforts are exerted and what methods of treatment are adopted, the end will come quickly, and recovery might be entirely hopeless.

The basic cause of this rapid deterioration is doubtless the predominant climate in the Gulf region. It is considered to be the most inimical climate to cement in the world. In a study recently prepared by the University of al-Dhahran, the researchers concluded that the average rate of corrosion in the Gulf is more than 500 times greater than its counterpart in the region of Florida, which is essentially considered to be a "corrosion region" that is inhospitable to normal cement technologies. Moreover, other studies conducted by English researchers in the areas of Bahrain and the UAE have shown a large differential between the average lifetime of the buildings in these areas and the average lifetime of buildings in more moderate areas, such as Europe, etc. The average lifetime of a building in the West is more than 100 years, and each structure is supposed to last at least 50 years without any basic repairs. The average lifetime of a building in the Gulf is less than 20 years. In many cases dealt with by the study, it became clear that the expected lifetime of a building was no more than 10 years. Buildings were discovered that had begun to need basic, urgent repairs 3 years after their construction. The study discovered that six out of every seven buildings more than 20 years old had begun to require basic repairs.

Although these studies were carried out on certain areas, it is generally thought that the problem of corrosion is present to the same degree in all the developed regions lying along the Gulf. The problem is not limited to buildings alone. It also strikes public utilities, power plants, equipment,

subterranean water pipes, and the foundations of buildings (since underground water rises through osmosis). An examination of the water distribution system in Bahrain has revealed that the average life of some of its sections is no more than 8 years.

Thus, the problem is basically one of climate.

There are other basic factors that exacerbate the problem and help it to spread. Here are the most prominent ones:

1. The process of growth and the erection of installations and buildings were accomplished with record speed in the region. Thus, there was no opportunity to do the research needed to develop technologies appropriate to the climate. Moreover, it was impossible to prevent mistakes from being made as a result of rapid execution or dependence on untrained labor and improvising contractors. Everyone was in a hurry. The governments were hurrying to implement as much development as possible in the shortest possible time. They were exploiting the opportunity provided by the increase in oil prices and the accumulation of income. The companies were hurrying to get as many contracts as possible and execute them quickly, in keeping with the demand from governments and individuals. The private sector itself was hurrying to erect apartments and buildings, in order to benefit from the strong demand in the mid-1970's and the opportunities to rent out apartments and homes at incredible prices. In some cases, the rents were high enough to earn back the capital used in 2 or 3 years.

2. Cement techniques are still being researched and developed in the West. They have reached their present level only after long years of research that focused on the experience of the West and the need for the use of cement in moderate and cold climates. These techniques and specifications were transmitted in an unchanged form to the Gulf climate. Indeed, sometimes not even the aforementioned techniques were available, in view of the large number of entrants into the contracting sector. Each contractor had a certain background or came from a specific region. In addition, the laborers were not competent.

3. The absence of experience and prior expertise meant that there were no precise specifications suited to the Gulf that could be applied by the authorities and imposed on the construction industry. The problem was made worse in the residential sector by the fact that the large companies, which possess means and expertise, were not active in it. They concentrated entirely on giant projects in the infrastructure area and on specialized buildings, such as hospitals and large residential complexes. Therefore, the indigenous contracting sector was left to seek the aid of whatever or whomever it wished in order to meet the challenge of creating tens of thousands of apartments and buildings in a very short period. This sector did not always consist of contractors and engineers. It was entered as well by all kinds of people and tradesmen.

Things were made worse by the kind of laborers used. They were lacking in training and everything having to do with fine details of great importance in the use, preparation, and irrigation of cement with water, etc. It is

interesting to note that the "improvising contractors" did not stop at the erection of residential buildings and villas. Rather, they sometimes engaged in ambitious, costly projects, as happened in the case of the big sports stadium in al-Duhah, which was built by a travel agent and immediately began to crack and collapse. At first, the authorities tried to repair and support it, but they soon gave up on it and built a new sports stadium.

There are many examples that illustrate the extent and magnitude of the problem of cement corrosion in the Gulf. We can mention a few of them here. There is the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain, which was abandoned as soon as it was built, since it seemed unfit for habitation as a result of the "cement cancer." Another complete hotel was built next to the old wing. There is also the apartment complex built on al-'Adaliyah Road in Bahrain. No one lived in it after it was completed, since its flaws were discovered. It is waiting to be razed now. Then there are the government building in al-Manamah and the clock tower in Dubai, as well as the airport in al-Shariqah. The latter was built in 1975. Less than 6 years later, it was decided to abandon it and build a new one. It has been said that this was because of the small size of the original airport, but it seems that the problem of corrosion played a basic role in the decision.

Economic Dimension of the Problem

In order to understand the economic dimension, or the exorbitant economic cost of the problem of the cement sickness in the Gulf, it is necessary to consider the following matters:

1. The lifespan of buildings. Buildings on the Gulf coast have a short lifespan in comparison to buildings in the moderate countries (and even in comparison with structures erected in internal or drier regions, such as the central region of Saudi Arabia and Oman). To put the matter briefly, this means that the true capital cost of projects is many times greater than their nominal or "apparent" cost, with respect to the owner or the state. This cost, which is unexpected, at least at the start of a project, was not noted or taken into account in the past. At the least, this was so because the owners expected to regain their capital quickly by renting or selling the property at fantastic rates. Now that matters have normalized, investment in apartments has come to require the assurance of a fixed, long-term return on capital. The benefit of the investment has come to depend on the preservation of the capital itself, which cannot be allowed to disappear in a brief period. This means that every investor is forced to take the problem of cement corrosion into account, since it is the primary problem that might threaten his investment.

2. The cost of maintenance. The most important problem created by the cement sickness is the need to carry out basic repairs in buildings in order to delay their collapse and the loss of the money invested in them. This cost, which does not begin to fall due in the West as a rule until 50 years or more have passed, can fall due in the Gulf after 10 years, if not earlier. If that happens, the original cost increases, while the value of the expected return falls. The problem confronting officials here is that the owner of a building might prefer to refrain from making any repairs and wait for the

collapse of the structure in order to invest anew. He might do so because he has no faith in the outcome of the treatment or because there is no demand for apartments. In some areas, the vacancy crisis is weakening the incentive to invest in repairs and maintenance.

New Framework of Competition

One of the issues that is imposing itself on the discussion of the subject of corrosion is the question of competition and the role of the state in regulating it and submitting it to controls that currently do not exist. The basic problem with the subject of construction is that it seems from the outside to be an easy and simple operation. Nevertheless, it is an industry that has developed and acquired techniques and specialists. Despite the many difficulties presented by the climate on the Gulf coast, most people still think that any contractor, no matter what background and equipment he has, can adapt and invent the means with which to confront these factors. On the basis of this estimation, the contracting sector has been left to free competition and the market mechanism. There has been a lack of rules and regulations. In view of the bitter experience the Gulf countries have had with the companies, their inflated offers, and their exaggerated prices, they have clearly reacted by devoting all their attention to encouraging competition and exerting downward pressure on the prices of various kinds of offers and contracts. However, the result has been the opposite of what should happen in theory. The competition that has existed in the absence of any scientific regulations and mandatory specifications has not forced the incompetent contractors out of the market. Instead, it has forced the good contractors out. The latter can compete in a regulated climate, but they are the losers in a climate of competition that is free from every professional restraint. The victim of all this is always the customer, be he an individual or a government. Contrary to what is thought, the customers are of necessity incapable of realizing their best interests and understanding the complex technical aspects of the process of construction in the Gulf climate. Neither could they accept the cost, even if they understood these aspects. Often, the customer is aiming to realize the greatest possible return on the smallest possible investment. In view of these technical aspects and the many provisions that must be made in order to assure the long-term performance of the cement, such as selecting good materials, protecting them from the sun, cleansing them with water, using certain equipment to smooth the cement immediately with hoses and then chill it in a regulated fashion, etc., the cost factor can increase. This factor can differ fundamentally from one price offer to another, according to whether the party submitting the offer includes the aforementioned measures or not. As for now, competition is of the cut-throat variety. Prices are slashed, and operators will accept any cost in order to remain in the market. Thus, the danger exists that contractors will ignore these and other specifications out of a desire to win contracts, since they operate according to the logic of unrestrained competition. The result is that the bad contractors will force the good ones out.

In view of all this, the Gulf authorities can and must play an important and decisive role as quickly as possible. The governments are the biggest customers in the region. More than anyone else, they have an overriding interest in controlling the use of cement and submitting it to mandatory specifications

and rules. They must do so out of their regard for public safety and the interest of the economy. It must be pointed out constantly that the cost of the cement structure of a building makes up no more than a certain proportion of its total cost after completion. It might be a fourth of the total or less. Indeed, it might be much less in the case of projects such as hotels or hospitals, in which the greater part of the cost goes for internal outfitting, machinery, and equipment. Consequently, any additional expenditure made to assure the quality and permanence of the cement structure is a benefit and a source of profit to the investor. It represents no loss at all because it reduces the need for maintenance. Indeed, it reduces the danger that the investment as a whole will be halted and that work on it will be blocked as the result of the execution of continuous repairs in the near future. In this regard, the case of the Gulf Hotel speaks very clearly, as does the case of the chemical plant in al-Duhah. The appearance of cracks in the cement structure of the factory forced it to be closed for 6 months and halted production, since repairs had to be made. The cost incurred because of the shutdown and the repair operations was immeasurably greater than any savings that could have been realized as a result of the failure to require quality construction or pay attention to its importance.

What is the solution now? What responsibility do the various parties have to find and execute one, especially since they have a common interest in doing so? If the damage gets out of control and spreads, it will affect them all.

There is a basic fact that any solution must begin by affirming. It is the necessity of doing something quickly to draw up a list of specifications and conditions that must be adhered to by project owners, engineers, and contractors. It is not necessary for these specifications to be complete and integral. The important thing now is for them to include the group of basic rules developed via the practice of both local and foreign contracting firms. Many of these lessons have been incorporated into research and studies of undoubted scientific character and objectivity. In this area, no party is better qualified than the Higher Board for Specifications and Measures that was recently established by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. At any rate, the board can benefit greatly from the experience of the Saudi Board for Specifications and Measures, as well as from the modest experience of similar boards in the region.

In addition, an ambitious research program must be funded that will not merely develop techniques for using cement in the climate of the Gulf coast but will also have the goal of discovering and developing materials beside cement that can at least be used in construction completion operations such as fragmentation. In addition, building materials and means of thermal isolation could be developed. All this would have the goal of making Gulf construction harmonize with the environment and resist the climate. Indeed, it might be necessary to concentrate research efforts on reviewing the "packaged" engineering plans that have been imported hastily by contracting companies. In general, these plans have led to the creation of a fait accompli that has changed the face of Arab and Islamic cities. Matters such as these are interconnected. Perhaps the time has come to face them, especially since the pressure of the boom has passed. It has become possible to think

deliberately about these things and make conscious, responsible choices. The time has also come for the Arab experts in engineering to shoulder their responsibility.

For example, the societies of engineers and contractors have heretofore concentrated on matters of concern to their members. They have tried to assure them the greatest possible protection in the face of foreign competition. Despite the importance of this aspect, it is not enough to protect mere individuals. Rather, the profession itself must be protected and developed. Consequently, a law governing behavior and strict rules on quality must be adopted. In summation, it is possible for the societies of engineers and contractors to be transformed into a force that will take the initiative in advancing the Arab engineering profession, instead of acting and behaving like "pressure groups" that guard direct and immediate interests.

The role of the governments is also fundamental. Indeed, it is decisive in this context, because the governments alone can lend executive force to any rules that might be agreed upon. The individual naturally tends to concentrate on what will benefit him as an individual and make his work more profitable, in accordance with the conditions of the market and competition. Consequently he will not automatically think about the necessary rules and specifications, so long as he is certain that his competitor is prepared to work without them and make cheaper offers. If the customers, who possess the primary interest, do not know what they want or are uninterested in quality, why should the contractors be interested? They do what they are told. When quality conditions and clear specifications are introduced as a mandatory portion of the ledgers of contract conditions--be they government or private sector--all will follow suit. Competition, for example, between good, competent contractors and the other sectors, will become logical, safe, and balanced. In summation, the role of officialdom here is not to eliminate competition, but, on the contrary, to establish the principles and controls that will assure that it continues to serve consumers, project owners, and society. This is basically the lesson of adopting it as a rule. It is also necessary to affirm that the price is nothing but one element in any bidding offer and that the best offer is not necessarily the cheapest, unless it is equal to the others, which have higher prices, with respect to its commitment to specifications and safety conditions. If people wish to work with this rule, it will be necessary to explain these specifications, disseminate them, and turn them into an essential introduction for any contract or contracting deal. It is better for cement construction costs in the Gulf to increase by 10 or 15 percent above the average as a result of the adoption of precautions and strict rules imposed by the climate and circumstances. To ignore these rules will be to bear an unmeasurable burden and pay an incredible cost. What is being tested now in this area of the Gulf is the continuity of civilization itself in the long, life-and-death struggle with burning, salty nature.

Sea Bridge Project

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 59, Apr 84 p 44

[Text] The sea bridge whose execution between the Saudi mainland and Bahrain has been started is now the biggest experiment in the field of the use of

cement to be witnessed by the Gulf region. The bridge will extend several miles into the sea, and its cost has been estimated in the billions of dollars. In its construction, the cement technology known in the region has not been used, since the Dutch companies that have taken on the project (Dan Consult, Ballast Needam) have decided not to use the usual Portland cement. Instead, they are using the cement known as blast furnace Portland, which is a special variety. It consists of 20 percent Portland cement and 80 percent burnt out blast furnace fuel. The latter material is crushed and mixed with Portland cement. This special cement mixture has been used for a long time in the West in bridges and causeways over the sea and rivers. Its usefulness has been proven, and it is considered to possess better qualities than regular Portland in terms of solidity and resistance to the factors of corrosion and aging to which cement is exposed in such cases.

Dan Consult has carried out research in cooperation with the research institute of the University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of the famous researcher, (Liddy Delaroix). When the research, experiments, and consultations were completed, the Dutch companies adopted the blast furnace cement and decided not to use regular Portland.

Despite the positive record of blast furnace cement and the research that preceded the aforementioned decision, established scientific circles belonging to the institution for research and information of the engineering industry in Britain have expressed reservation in principle. Their hesitation is based on the impermissibility of "testing" a new kind of cement in a gigantic and costly project like the sea bridge. In the view of these experts, though this kind of cement has succeeded in countries with moderate climates, it has not previously been tested true to nature in projects in the Gulf. It is difficult to determine the long-term effect of the fact that the aforementioned cement will be used in a different environment, since there are numerous unknowns and factors that can be predicted only with difficulty in the laboratory. An important example in this area is the fact that blast furnace cement hardens and "matures" slowly through a long process of being in contact with water. This matter can be investigated in a moderate or cold climate, but it is difficult to do so in a hot and "inimical" climate such as that of the Gulf. It is true that the company executing the project has great expertise, according to the same source. It is also true that the process of readying the sections of the sea bridge is taking place in the best possible conditions. Thus, there is no reason to think that problems will occur. However, the simple fact that the operation is being carried out in completely new circumstances logically compels one to wait and see what the days will bring before offering an opinion.

Despite the elegance of the English observations, the point they raise is clear and worthy of consideration. The point is that the use of blast furnace cement itself is a new experiment in the Gulf. As is the case with every experiment being done for the first time, there are always factors whose effect might not be clear from the start. These factors supply a certain amount of risk. The English experts have wisely pointed out that experiments are usually conducted on small, experimental projects, not on huge projects of great cost like the sea bridge.

ARMENIANS MARK GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

In Yerevan, Beirut

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 26 Apr 84 pp 1,4

[Text] The 69th anniversary of the Great Genocide was marked by the entire Armenian nation with befitting solemnity and ceremony in an atmosphere of emphatic political awareness, with marches and gatherings of protest, with processions of homage and tribute, with assemblies filled with political speeches and with religious ceremonies.

Although few details are available at the moment about the commemorative ceremonies and processions held outside Beirut, the scant information received so far reaffirms the growing political maturity of the Armenian nation.

It was learned from newscasts on the domestic service of the [Soviet] Armenian state radio that the human procession on the road to the Genocide Memorial in Dzidzernagapert never ceased nor slowed down from the early hours of the morning until late in the night on 24 April. Students, workers, scientists, intellectuals and political and party workers from Yerevan and from other parts of Armenia--and even from distant republics--formed a human stream and marched up to the Genocide Memorial with official wreaths as well as bunches of wild flowers in their hands, took a moment around the Eternal Flame among Gomidas' melodies and contemplated silently about the tragedy of our nation's recent history, our millions of martyrs who were massacred, the irrepressible rights of our people, the confident present and the promising future.

At 10:00 am, state officials led by K. Demirjian, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Armenian Communist Party, Premier F. Sarkisian and President B. Sarkisov arrived at the memorial where K. Demirjian placed a large wreath.

Meanwhile, it was learned from foreign radio stations that a crowd estimated at 8,000-10,000 and led by Armenian resistance fighters held a peaceful demonstration in Paris on Tuesday and placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Similar demonstrations and processions were held in Marseilles, Lyon and Dessin.

In our community, meanwhile, various gatherings and ceremonies were held on Tuesday. The first of these took place around the Memorial Chapel in Antilias,

the second one was held in Barsamian Hall at the V. Tekeyan school and the third one was held at the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate. These events took place despite the extremely unfavorable security conditions prevailing in the country.

The first gathering was organized by the local chapters of the three Armenian political parties. Thousands of Armenians listened quietly and solemnly to speeches delivered by Krikor Nkrourian of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Adruni Madurian of the Democratic Liberal Party and Diran Jerejian of the Hunchak Social Democratic Party.

The previous night a gathering of vigil was held by the student and youth chapters of the three political parties around the Memorial Chapel. This event featured cultural performances and speeches by young representatives of each organization.

A remarkable event, organized by the Tekeyan Cultural Center, was held at 3:00 pm in the afternoon at Barsamian Hall. Despite the sharply deteriorated security situation and the flying shells and bullets, more than 300 Armenians listened to an opening speech by Hagop Boghosian and a politically saturated speech by Hagop Kuyumjian as well as performances by Garo and Alexandra Chadurian, Huri Isgahadian, Talin Batuzian and Knarig Harutunian.

We will report further details and correspondences about these and other events as they become available.

In Paris, Athens

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 25 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Armenian organizations held gatherings in various European capitals and the United States in connection with 24 April. In certain cities, demonstrations were held, but they were mostly suppressed by local security forces.

Although the U.S. government prevented the passage of two resolutions in connection with 24 April in the Congress, nearly 50 senators and congressmen took the floor yesterday and demanded that the United States officially recognize the "Armenian genocide."

As a result of lobbying efforts by pro-Armenian Senator Paul Tsongas and Congressman Charles Pashayan--who is of Armenian origin--a resolution was voted on in the Congress, and a ceremony was held to commemorate the "victims of the Armenian genocide." Speakers at the ceremony sharply criticized the Reagan administration for preventing the passage of the resolutions in the Congress.

At the same time, around 50 Armenians demonstrated in front of the Congress building and shouted slogans against Turkey demanding an end to military assistance to Turkey.

The New York TIMES carried a full-page advertisement which aired Armenian allegations. It was notable that the advertisement carried the names of the Armenians who paid for the advertisement.

In Athens

More than 1,000 persons held demonstrations in Athens yesterday and had the audacity to march to the Turkish Embassy. The police generally remained passive to the demonstrations which were organized by the Armenian Youth Federation. The demonstrators carried anti-Turkish slogans and placards and reiterated their demands. Meanwhile, the Armenian Secret Army issued a communique charging that its attacks will continue.

Anti-Turkish demonstrations were held in London, Brussels, Beirut, Jerusalem and other cities. The demonstration in London was very modest. The demonstration in Paris notably included rival organizations as well as well-known politicians from the ruling and opposition parties of France. In London, a small number of protesters gathered in front of the Turkish Airlines office. No one was allowed to approach the Turkish Embassy.

The demonstrators in Athens had the audacity to burn a Turkish flag.

In addition to these Armenian demonstrations, an event staged by fugitive Turks took place in the Netherlands. A small bomb went off in the morning in front of the Turkish Consulate in Deventer. Responsibility for the incident was claimed by an organization calling itself the "Turkish People's Revolutionary Brigade." Unidentified persons called on behalf of this organization and said the act was staged in support of their comrades who are held in Turkish prisons.

9588
CSO: 4605/71

BEIRUT DAILY: 'TURKS CANNOT SILENCE VOICE OF JUSTICE'

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 4 May 84 p 1

[Text] It is always the same Turk: the Turk who denies the genocide, the Turk who futilely and hopelessly flees the charges of violating the rights and occupying the ancestral lands of the Armenian nation, the Turk who is repulsed by the voice of justice and truth.

But the voice justice and truth today rises once again from France: an unhesitating and uncompromising voice that proclaims the truth, following President Mitterrand's statement in Vienna in connection with the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, the verdict of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in Sorbonne condemning the Turks for committing genocide and violating rights and other pro-Armenian declarations by French politicians and intellectuals which reaffirm the truth.

Joseph Franceschi, the Mayor of Alfortville and Secretary of State [to the Minister of the Interior Responsible for Public Safety], said during the dedication ceremony of the monument erected in memory of the martyrs of April 1915: "This memorial has been erected to pay tribute to the memory of our brothers who were cruelly massacred in 1915. By denying the reality of the 1915 genocide, the Turkish government is obliterating the historical reality of Armenia."

France's posture--the same posture adopted by Clemenceau, Georess and Pierre Quillar--of recognizing the rightful position of the Armenian nation and declaring it loudly to the world is neither surprising nor new.

It is also neither surprising nor new that an official figure has accused the perpetrator of the genocide of trying to cover up the truth. Turkey's bitterness and subsequent threats more than 10 years ago over the erection of the Martyrs' Monument in Marseilles--which eventually led Turkey to recall its ambassador from France--are still indelibly fresh in memory. Today, too, Turkey resorts to threats and tries to drown the truth amidst clamor by declaring that it will take retaliatory steps against France.

Finally, it is neither surprising nor new that France stood by the side of justice and truth when it responded to Turkey through Minister Andre Labarrere's speech before the French parliament stating and reaffirming that "France recognizes the fact that Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire became the

victims of a genocide in 1915" and that France is not inclined to give in to Turkish pressures and to prevent lawful and legitimate demonstrations to commemorate that historical fact.

France's posture of declaring its recognition of the Armenian Genocide is a heavy blow which brings down Turkish cardboard castles built with fraudulent declarations and efforts to distort history by words and deeds.

France's posture is also a genuine reflection of the stance of the Armenian people to demand justice and the restoration of its irrepressible rights. That posture is not a favor done to the Armenian people, but a voice which rises against the rising tide of injustices committed on the international arena and which must resonate among all those who claim to be the defenders of just causes.

Finally, France's posture offers a boost to the rightful and demanding Armenian youth which has embarked on a struggle with no retreat in the name of:

- The recognition of the genocide;
- The restoration of legitimate rights; and
- The liberation of the ancestral lands.

The struggle of the Armenian nation cannot tolerate any wavering or retreats particularly in the face of the anti-Armenian campaign and activities undertaken by Turkey and the state terrorism planned and implemented by Turkey's past and present rulers.

9588
CSO: 4605/79

ALFORTVILLE BOMBING: 'TURKISH STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM'

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 5 May 84 pp 1,2

[Text] The bomb attack staged on Thursday against the Alfortville memorial dedicated to the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide left the unwritten signature of its author: Turkish state-sponsored terrorism.

We are not unfamiliar with that signature. That signature is indelibly also inscribed here in Lebanon in connection with the Turkish-sponsored kidnaping of comrade Apo Ashjian. That same unwritten signature was left in Alfortville as well as on Armenian churches, cultural centers, clubs and institutions in Paris and Marseilles which became targets of previous bomb attacks.

The blood-colored signature of Turkish state terrorism is particularly inscribed on the biggest crime recorded in human history, the genocide of 1915, and, in order to obliterate the indelible marks left by that genocide, the "genius" of the Turkish government today, as in the past, resorts to the only means that it comprehends: new crimes, conspiracies and attempts at distortion.

In reality, we must be thankful for these "fruits" of the "ingenious" innovativeness of the Turkish government, because every step it takes to erase the marks of its great crime produces additional evidence about the multitude of its crimes, and it thus unmasks its criminal face by its own hands.

The following fact is probably incomprehensible to the Turk:

The "revision" of geography and history textbooks cannot erase geographical and historical facts. Baseless propaganda and fraudulent charges leveled against the Armenian nation cannot cleanse the Turk's criminal and oppressive hands. Even the obliteration of all the monuments dedicated to the martyrs of the genocide cannot exonerate Turkey of its responsibility as the author of the genocide.

The terrorist and criminal Turkish government and the modern Turkish state which is the successor of the Ottoman Empire must understand one irrefutable and oft-repeated fact:

Any inimical act committed against the Armenian people will simply reinforce and give impetus to our struggle and our rightful demands from which Turkey cannot escape and for which it will eventually have to make reparations.

FRENCH DAILY COMMENTS ON ANTI-TURKISH DEMONSTRATION

Paris LE MONDE in French 7 May 84 p 10

[Article by Daniel Schneidermann: "Four Generations of Armenians in the Streets of Alfortville"]

[Text] The Armenians are discreet and courteous people. And when they go out into the street, it is reluctantly, almost on tiptoe. There were scarcely more than 1,500 of them on Friday 4 May in Alfortville under the banner "Stop Turkish Terrorism" to protest against the three attacks of the previous evening. In the Hague, Netherlands, on Friday, credit for these attacks was claimed by an "anti-Armenian organization" unknown up until that time and for which a preliminary investigation was started on 4 May by the public prosecutor's department at Créteil.

This is a timid mobilization for a strong Armenian community of about 6,500 people in the city which has as its mayor the secretary of state for public safety, Mr Joseph Franceschi.

Taking into account only the total numbers and listening only to the slogans, however, one would underestimate the emotion of the Armenians. "We talk among ourselves," explains a female student, "but we do not know how to express ourselves to the outside." "Our parents essentially taught us not to bother people. That is still very strong in us!" adds Michèle Sarkissian, a talkative blond who is an official of the House of Armenian Culture. The demonstration bothered Alfortville for barely an hour along a few hundred meters of the main street.

The mixture of all generations is in itself a small victory over indifference, "and over fear," says Mr Patrick Devedjian, mayor (RPR) of Antony, who was present in the front row of the procession. "Among some survivors of the genocide whom I have met, the attacks have awakened the old anguishes of 1915."

Perhaps to exercise the anguish, people came in families, those warm Armenian families in which four generations frequently live together. People meet the joke in Komutas Street (named for an Armenian composer and priest) between the apostolic church and the Saint-Mesrob nursery school (named for the creator of the Armenian alphabet and culture). They are there, the pioneers of 1923, then recently arrived from Marseilles, who stopped in this swampy corner because they had seen a factory smokestack smoking.

There they are, dressed in their Sunday best and vaguely anxious, and their almost 60-year-old children calm them by smiling. They recall 1940, when France sent them to fight on the front line in exchange for this wonderful present: naturalization. "We have given so much to France!" they repeat. The third generation remembers the Gaullist years: "When the T.V. was broadcasting the general's speeches, our grandparents, who didn't understand a word of it, nevertheless made us be reverently quiet; he was a good Frenchman and he did not harm Armenians."

With the Clergy

Imperceptibly more nervous, the adolescents flit about. Some of them have cut class at school to go distribute pamphlets at the station exits calling for the demonstration. Shortly, at the end of their round, they will break into song across the street from the monument, blown up by the attack. A few words from the older ones will calm this vague impulse toward turbulence. As soon as it is put forth by someone overly excited, the word "self-defense" is rejected with horror by the unanimous community. On the other hand, its orators will vigorously demand increased police protection around their buildings and monuments.

Obviously the Armenians have trouble imagining that they can now be the target for people placing bombs. This community, which terrorism strikes today like lightning, was forged in the French crucible with the last ounce of energy. The time is long since passed when the pioneers of Alfortville built their first communal dwelling together, before helping each other build individual houses. Henceforth integrated, the community has lost its coherence and has seen its ties of solidarity weakened.

All it has left today is that intact wish to see the 1915 genocide recognized by international institutions. "On the monument unveiled last Sunday, the words 'Genocide Ordered by the Turkish Government' appeared in letters 10 centimeters high. That is what the Turks could not stand!"

This is a wish carried by a clergy which forms one body with the national sentiment: one had only to hear the applause which greeted the bishop and the archimandrite upon their arrival at the head of the procession. "The church, in a way, replaces the state which we lack," say the Armenians.

And how will Alfortville-the-French react? Even though several shopkeepers on the route of the procession lowered their shutters as a sign of solidarity, the Armenians were quite alone on the main street. The evening of the attack, they heard some sad comments of "it had to happen" but also in a belligerent tone which sent a chill down their spine. Michèle Sarkissian laments: "That evening, I felt that if we had had a country to go back to, some people would not have hesitated to send us back there." If they appreciated the presence at their side of Master Henri Hajdenberg, president of Jewish Revival, the Armenians resented as a "desertion" the absence of the mayor, Mr Franceschi, who did not even send one of his assistants...

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CSO: 4619/53

SURVEY REVIEWS DIFFERENCES IN MALE, FEMALE LABOR PATTERNS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 801, 21 May 84 pp 31-34

[Article by Dr Ihab Salam: "Women and Men in the Labor Market"]

[Text] There are many phenomena which confuse people doing research on the Egyptian economy. The answers that best explain these phenomena can be arrived at only through profound study and research. For example, it is not at all sufficient [to state] that the rate of female gross labor came to 5.5 percent in 1976 and has not greatly increased since 1960, when it was 4.8 percent, and take that for granted. This is because it is well known that rural women participate with their husbands, brothers or fathers in the field. They indeed do not participate in difficult work, but they do participate effectively in easy jobs such as picking fruit, raising animals and poultry, and other activities whose goal is commerce and earning a living. How could the rate of female gross labor (the proportion of working females to the female population) be at such a low level?

The difference between rural and urban areas, as far as the female gross labor rate goes, is very minor. In the rural areas the rate came to 3.5 percent while in the urban areas it came to 8.1 percent, in 1976. It did not greatly increase over 1960, when it was 4.3 and 5.8 percent, respectively.

Measuring Women's Role in Egyptian Fields

The situation requires that a special study be done on rural women by the Central Agency for General Mobilization and Statistics. Such research would enter into the daily chores they perform within the family, although they would not be asked a direct question as to whether they worked or not, because some men look down on declaring that their wives work in the fields with them or raise animals.

If the questions asked of men or women are indirect, coming after their recollections of their daily activity from the time they start in the morning to the time they go to bed at night, that sort of question will reveal whether the women have been working or not. It would be better if female researchers rather than male ones carried out this research in questioning the women directly.

Peasants' Flight from the Occupation of Farming

Another phenomenon which merits study is the disengagement of agricultural labor from farming. Where does it go? Does it flee from the village to the small town or the large city, or does it flee abroad? What are the occupations it engages in and the activity in which it works? Do workers still claim that they are peasants or agricultural workers, are they now established in their new occupation, in the building and construction category, or as they like to call it, the architectural category, have they taken on a new occupation in processing industries, or have they turned toward easy occupations in the services sector?

Such research will lead researchers to think deeply about studying the phenomenon of shifts among various occupations. It is mathematically easy to compute such shifts between censuses, but reality does not conform to mathematical method. This sort of study will clearly reveal the pattern of movement or shifts among professions and economic activities.

What about the Type of Work?

A third phenomenon which requires study on trends in economic activities in the workforce is the question whether the orientation is now shifting from office work to manual or technical work. Is the workforce turning toward industrial activities, or is it still fond of service jobs? Is the workforce now able to work in high technology activities or are productive operations in these activities still short of competent labor?

There are many questions which can be answered only by specialized research.

It is clear that the tendencies among males differ from those among women in the Egyptian labor market. The special characteristics of this market are revealed by the data in the 1960 and 1976 censuses. Males accounted for 92 percent of the workforce in 1960 while females accounted for 8 percent. No change worth mentioning occurred in the years 1960-1976. The proportion of males came to 91 percent and females 9 percent in the latter year.

The difference between males and females extends to most features of the workforce, as far as both economic activities and occupational categories are concerned.

Changes in the Workforce in Egyptian Farming

Table One shows the distribution of the workforce by economic activity and type in the Egypt of 1960 and 1976.

The proportion of males in agricultural activity came to 58.4 percent of the male workforce in 1960 while in 1976 it came to 49.1 percent; that is, the change was major and the decline great (9 percent), although the average annual growth rate was minor -- 0.8 percent. However, that trend among males did not correspond with the radical change which occurred among women. In 1960, 45.5 percent of the workforce were women and they then came to 22.2 percent in 1976, that is, a difference of 23 percent. That is, the

Table One: Distribution of the Workforce by Economic Activity and Type, Egypt, 1960-1976 (6 Years and Older)

Economic Activity	Males			Females		
	1960	1976	[Percent] Rate of Growth	1960	1976	Rate of Growth
Farming	58.4	49.1	0.8	45.5	22.3	-3.4
Mines and Quarries	0.3	0.3	2.7	--	0.2	16.9
Processing Industries	8.4	13.4	4.8	4.1	9.2	8.2
Electricity, Gas and Water	0.2	0.6	7.8	--	0.6	19.6
Building and Construction	2.2	4.4	6.1	0.1	1.0	15.3
Commerce, Restaurants and Hotels	8.9	8.5	1.6	6.1	7.0	1.8
Transport, Communications and Storage	3.6	4.7	3.7	0.4	2.3	11.5
Banks and Insurance	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	2.4	9.7
Services	15.6	16.1	2.0	40.1	46.9	2.1
Not Shown	1.4	1.6	--	3.0	4.4	--
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	--	100.0	100.0	--
Absolute Figures	7,083.4	9,532.5	1.8	594.2	697.5	1.0

Note: Absolute figures in thousands.

Source: Taken from the censuses of 1960 and 1976.

difference was more than twofold. Meanwhile, the rate of decline was relatively large (-3.4 percent). This difference is explained by the low level of women's incomes in the labor market, especially if they are illiterate or just read and write. The rate of participation of illiterate women in economic activity is 2.7 percent and that of women who just read and write is 4.3 percent. One can add the rate of participation of women who have below-intermediary credentials, that is, 4.1 percent. However, what is required is to research the state of women's employment in depth, in a manner which will confirm or deny this picture, especially in agricultural activity. Present phenomena confirm that women's participation in farming in an effective manner is greater than these rates! Indeed, the strange aspect of the matter is that men are now drifting away from villages in search of a

livelihood and women have not taken their place. It is said that instructions are left by the men, before they leave the village, that the women are not to work during their absence, that they should stay in their homes, and that they will undertake to send them expense money for themselves and their children. Is this statement correct?

Public Services and Processing Industries

The relative circumstances of men and women in the second most important field of economic activity does not differ, either. In their case, the second most important field is embodied in public, social and personal services activity. However, the degree of importance does differ. The proportion of men in this activity came to 15.6 percent of the male workforce in 1960 and 16.1 percent in 1976, while women accounted for 40.1 percent of the workforce in 1960 and 46.9 percent in 1976. The reason is obvious, in the case of women, since they prefer to work in the government, where there are no more than 6 working hours, and in addition office work does not require women to go out into the field (the farm or factory). Therefore, women's participation in economic activity rises gradually as their educational level rises. At the level of intermediary credentials, the participation comes to 52.6 percent and at the level of above-intermediary and below-university credentials to 87.1 percent. At the level of university credentials it comes to 89.2 percent and at the level of postgraduate credentials it comes to 85.7 percent. This was in 1976.

The situation is not different in the case of men and women in the third most important area of economic activity, which is processing industries. However, in this instance the relative importance of males to females is greater. In fact, it was higher in 1976 than it was in 1960 as far as they were concerned. Males accounted for 8.4 percent of this activity in 1960, then came to account for 13.4 percent in 1976 with the rise in the average annual growth rate (4.8 percent). The proportion of females in processing industry activity came to 4.1 percent in 1960 and then 9.2 percent in 1976, while their average annual rate of growth exceeded that of men (8.2 percent).

Rates of Growth and Aspects of Occupations

The fact is that in the case of men, electricity, gas and water activity, as well as building and construction, account for the highest growth rates (7.8 and 6.1 percent, respectively). However, they do not represent great importance in the distribution of manpower. In fact, these two rates, among women, exceeded those for men (19.6 and 15.3 percent, respectively). To that one should add the rate of growth of the female workforce in mines and quarries (16.9 percent), transport and communications (11.5 percent), and banks, insurance and business services (8.7 percent). However, the significance of the workforce in these activities is very minor.

The differences between males and females in terms of occupations is shown in Table Two, which shows the distribution of manpower in accordance with occupational categories and type in Egypt (1960-1976). From this, the following is clear: while males working in agriculture, fishing onland and

Table Two: Distribution of Workforce by Occupational Categories and Type, Egypt (1960-1976) (15 Years and Above)

Professional Categories	Males		[Percent] Rate of Growth	Females		
	1960	1976		1960	1976	Rate of Growth
People in Scientific and Technical Fields and the Like	2.7	6.2	7.2	12.8	30.4	8.3
Managers and Business Directors	0.5	1.1	6.4	0.3	2.0	14.6
People Employed in Clerical Activities	4.7	6.5	3.9	3.8	22.6	14.1
People Employed in Sales	8.2	6.9	0.8	8.2	5.6	0.4
People Employed in Services	8.8	8.7	1.8	25.5	10.6	-2.5
People Employed in Farming	55.2	45.7	0.7	34.6	13.6	-2.9
Production Workers	18.6	23.1	3.2	10.2	9.8	2.6
People Not Categorized by Occupations	1.3	1.7	3.8	4.5	5.2	3.9
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	--	100.0	100.0	--
Absolute Numbers	6,410.4	8,644.5	1.9	372.9	593.9	2.9

Note: Absolute numbers in thousands.

Source: Drawn from census for 1960 and 1976.

fishing at sea occupy first place among occupations, as far as the male workforce goes (55.2 percent in 1960 and 45.7 percent in 1976), females working in agriculture represented 34.6 percent of the female workforce in 1960 then after that their proportion dropped to 13.6 percent, while women in scientific and technical professions and their like came to 30.4 percent in 1976, occupying first place.

Meanwhile, workers in production came in second place among occupational categories in the distribution of the male workforce in 1960 and 1976 (18.6 percent and 23.1 percent respectively). Second place also changed in the case of women in these two years. In 1960 women employed in services totalled 15.5 percent and in 1976 women employed in clerical work totalled 22.6 percent.

Thus it is clear that occupational patterns were almost stable as far as men went in the two censuses, while there was a radical change in the case of women. The labor market started to choose women with intermediate and high educational levels.

The rate of growth is still high in the case of white-collar occupations among males, even though it is twice as high among females (office workers increased by 6.4 [percent] in the case of men and 14.6 [percent] in the case of women), and in another area three times as high (for people employed in clerical work, 3.9 percent for males and 14.1 percent [for females]). Meanwhile the rate of growth of production (blue collar) workers was minor, which is not in keeping with the desired industrial resurgence (see Table Two).

The healthy phenomenon was that the rate of growth among people employed in services was minor among men (1.8 percent) and negative among women (-2.5 percent), and also negative among females engaged in agriculture (-2.9 percent). This latter point cannot be accepted, as it conflicts with reality. Perhaps the reason for it is that the census did not accept that there were female or even male workers above age 14 in families who had no wages; also, the period of the census in 1976 was in the offseason (the month of November) while in 1960 it was at the peak season (the month of May).

Future Trends

What is the future as far as men and women go?

It is well known that the rates of participation for males in the 6 to 24 age group are trending downward, which affects the overall participation of males.

This is clearly apparent in the slight decline between 1960 and 1976, from 55.1 percent to 54.1 percent. The reason can basically be attributed to the increase in the rates of entry into basic, secondary and university education and the decline in the dropout rates at these educational levels.

The rates of women's participation are tending to increase in all age groups, which influences their overall rate. The fundamental point is that the rates for women are relatively high between ages 6 and 14 then decline because of marriage, then rise again, though at a lesser rate, then once again drop because of child rearing. Therefore, women's rates of participation differ in accordance with marital status, totalling 13.8 percent among the unmarried, 4.4 percent among the married, 12.3 among the divorced and 4.5 percent among the widowed. However, economic conditions might compel women to continue to work, as well as the desire to make use of the credentials they have acquired, and the opening up and spread of nurseries and the availability of modern vacuuming, ironing and cooking appliances all help to save time in housework, which prompts women to continue to work and consequently raises their rate of participation in economic activity.

It is also expected that the rate of growth of white collar workers will start to decline and the rate of growth of blue collar workers will start to

rise, because of limits on graduating classes in university education and the trend toward increases in graduating classes in vocational training, although that might apply more to males than to females.

Most people employed in agriculture turn toward employment in building and construction and processing industries, which increases the proportion of production workers. Thus, the proportion of males employed in agriculture is declining, while the proportion of women may remain as it is. However, if the data is corrected and the census-takers are able to unearth the truth about rural women, the absolute numbers of women might increase above those that are found in the latest census.

The tendency toward agricultural product processing will help increase the number of production workers; on the other hand the trend toward the spread of social and public services in rural areas and new towns might help stabilize the number of people working in service activities, and their relative importance will subsequently be affected.

All these factors will produce new conditions in the distribution of economic activity and occupational levels. Let us await the 1986 census, from which we may learn a great deal.

11887

CSO: 4504/272

BRIEFS

JUDAEA SETTLEMENT TURNS CIVILIAN--The ceremony of turning the settlement of Ma'ale 'Omarim into a civilian one began a short while ago. This settlement is located south of Hebron, and will now be populated by an Amana [Gush Emunim's Settlement movement] nucleus. Our correspondent Gil Ronen is on the phone from Ma'ale 'Omarim: [Ronen--live] A few minutes ago the military outpost of Nahal Tene was turned into the communal village of Ma'ale 'Omarim. Ma'ale 'Omarim is located south of Hebron, 24 km north of Beersheba. Mikha'el Degel, deputy agriculture minister; Matityahu Drobles, the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department; and the NAHAL commander spoke at the ceremony, which began at 1630 this afternoon. The NAHAL members who had been here up till now and who are members of Hashomer Hatza'ir [MAPAM-affiliated youth movement] will move on to another outpost following the ceremony. [Excerpt] [TA291600 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 29 May 84]

SUMMER VISITS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES--Summer visits to the territories began this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned from the Civilian Administration that approximately 100,000 visitors are expected to arrive this year, almost twice as much as last year. The Civilian Administration made arrangements to simplify the procedures necessary for the smooth passage of visitors coming to the territories from Arab countries. The amount of money which the visitors are allowed to bring in with them was increased to \$3,500. The longest summer visits are to end by the middle of October, when the last pilgrims return to the territories and to Israel from Mecca. [Text] [TA010748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jun 84]

CSO: 4400/246

JUNBLATT, FRENCH DISCUSS ENDING ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 376, 5 May 84 p 12

[Article: "Junblatt and Mitterand Discuss Ending Occupation of South"]

[Text] Informed sources in Paris have told AL-MUSTAQBAL that one of the main issues discussed by Walid Junblatt, the chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party, with French President Mitterand during his visit to Paris last week was the role France could play in helping end the Israeli occupation of the south and in reaching an "understanding" on new security arrangements between Lebanon and Israel.

Junblatt met privately with President Mitterand at the Elysee after holding talks with Claude Cheysson, the French minister of foreign affairs. This was the first time Mitterand has received the Druze leader, despite the latter's repeated visits to Paris.

The informed sources have said that Junblatt has informed Mitterand that the new Lebanese cabinet will be entrusted with the negotiations to reach an agreement that guarantees Lebanon's full sovereignty over the south while at the same time insuring "Israel's security" in the area. Junblatt pointed out that such negotiations will not be direct negotiations with the Israelis but must take place through the United Nations. Junblatt has asked the French president to support the Lebanese movement at the United Nations and to bolster the UN forces in the south so that they may play a major role in the security arrangements with Israel.

Junblatt's talks in Paris also dealt with the role that France can play in achieving national reconciliation in Lebanon and in contributing to the rebuilding of Lebanon. The meeting between Mitterand and Junblatt was also an occasion to eliminate the tepidity which has prevailed between the two sides in recent months.

In the course of lauding the current policy followed by Paris in Lebanon and the area, a Druze source accompanying Junblatt on the visit expressed the opinion that the negative position taken by the Lebanese opposition vis-a-vis the tendencies of the French policy in Beirut has changed in the past 2 months, especially after Paris changed the direction of its military and political conduct.

The source also expressed the opinion that numerous factors have contributed to improving the image of France anew, including France's open insistence on maintaining the independence of its political decision-making from the United States, its insistence on keeping its unit operating within the framework of the multi-national force, its decision not to flee and to secure an "honorable departure" and its maintaining an "effective symbolic military presence" in Beirut by sending 40 observers to the contact lines and by continuing its participation in the UN forces stationed in the south.

The source has revealed that the French-Syrian rapprochement and resumption of the dialogue between Paris and Damascus have contributed greatly to restoring credibility to French policy.

The source has noted that France can play an important role in the near future on the level of the security of Lebanon by increasing the number of its observers, by overseeing implementation of the cease-fire and by increasing its participation and contribution to the UN forces in the south. It can also play an important role at the political level because Paris can now employ its credibility locally by contributing to bringing the viewpoints closer to each other.

8494

CSO: 4404/474

PROSPECTS FOR KARAMI GOVERNMENT ANALYZED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 376, 5 May 84 pp 22-23

[Article by Salim Nassar: "North Rescues South; Why Has Karami Chosen Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Steered Clear Of Ministry of Finance"]

[Text] At the Lausanne conference, President Amin al-Jumayyil stressed that abolition of the accord with Israel had become the fundamental choice for uniting the Lebanese people. In his opening address, the president declared that this step is not an end in itself but rather a means for achieving various national objectives. Within this framework, the president produced his political transformation in a manner that showed this transformation as a qualitative move that is closer to re-examination than to retreat. The president said: "When negotiation with Israel, with the participation of the United States, was the only and inevitable option for regaining the land, we did not hesitate in the face of this option. When abolition of the 17 May accord became the inevitable option for uniting the people, we did not hesitate in abolishing it. When the choice is between the homeland and an accord, we have to choose the homeland. Abolition of the agreement is also a means for uniting the will and the ranks and a way to liberating and uniting the land."

Two months after the declaration of this position, Rashid Karami has been entrusted with translating the slogan of national unity by way of a cabinet that constitutes, through its political representation, an entryway to uniting the will of the Lebanese people and liberating the south. Karami has spent some time in arranging the process of dividing the portfolios so that the cabinet makeup may reassure the majority of the people and may be wide-ranging in terms of representation of the various militias, parties and sects. This is why Karami's endeavors have been exposed to repeated shocks, beginning with the issue of numbers and ending with the refrainment of a large faction from taking part in the cabinet for justifiable and unjustifiable reasons. At the outset, the idea was for Karami to head a very broad cabinet that includes fixed portfolios for 18 ministers, plus 5 ministers of state, namely: Sulayman Franjiyah, Pierre al-Jumayyil, Nabih Birri, Camille Sham-un and Walid Junblatt. To justify such a cabinet, it was said that the Syrian cabinet contains 36 ministers, including a very small number of ministers of state. Considering that Lebanon has

emerged from an extraordinary political, economic and social situation, the formation of an extraordinary cabinet is the ideal solution for dealing with the consequences of the war. It was proposed, for example, that four portfolios be introduced for the evacuees, the retarded, the disabled, the families of the killed and lost, for the environment and for all the extraordinary circumstances generated by this war.

In Damascus, agreement was reached for symbolic participation by a number of deputy prime ministers or ministers of state, especially by Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri. After prolonged opposition, Junblatt agreed to enter the cabinet, on condition that he not attend the cabinet meetings or confine himself to a certain office. Justifying this mission, Junblatt said that the initial phase requires vigilance and that it is the phase of clearing the hearts, opening the national dialogue and expanding the scope of reconciliation. This is why, [said Junblatt], I believe that for security reasons, the deputy prime ministers and ministers of state must remain outside the practical framework of the cabinet. Junblatt proposed the formation of a team to support the ministers implementing the policy of the "war lords," provided that communication with the war lords continue to be made through the telephone and through emissaries.

It seems that Prime Minister Karami was not satisfied with this expression because it is his opinion that the symbolic task that does not require the presence of the "war lords" will have numerous negative consequences:

First, it will portray these war lords as if they were a very high political class which must be dealt with in a special manner and with different laws. This is something that the Lebanese politicians do not accept.

Second, if the objective of including these names [war lords] in the cabinet is to pave the way for a comprehensive national reconciliation, then their continued stay in their areas will not solve the problem. On the contrary, it entrenches the division of responsibilities with an official decree, thus nullifying the authority of the central government and making the shadow government comprised of the five absent ministers more effective and influential than Rashid Karami and his ministers.

Those informed of the progress of Karami's consultations assert that Karami has been compelled to cook the cabinet on a hot fire after having failed to settle the differences developing within the groupings and organizations on the one hand and between the president of the republic and ex-Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad on the other hand. It is said that President al-Jumayyil's communication with the Chamber of Deputies speaker has produced nothing but disagreement, that al-As'ad has refused to visit the [presidential] palace for consultation and that he has asked the president to deal with him by correspondence. Al-As'ad has been thus censuring the president for aligning himself with Nabih Birri's position and reminding the president that the Chamber of Deputies would not have convened if it were not for his, al-As'ad's, personal efforts. What happened with Speaker al-As'ad, and even

more, happened with ex-Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. Disagreement erupted between the two in Lausanne before the ears and eyes of 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, especially when Salam asked the president of the republic to be more objective and fair in dealing with the Muslims, telling the president that he was the only one of his sect's [Sunna] leaders to support and back him up and that despite all this, the [sect's] just demands were disregarded and the sincere advice remained buried in the drawers of the advisers. It seems that the disagreement between the presidential palace and al-Musaytibah took a new political dimension during and after the consultations, as proven by the fact that the propaganda campaigns have intensified and the weapons of criticism have grown sharper this week.

An opposition leader has described President al-Jumayyil's position as being very sensitive, considering that his political change from one option to another has compelled him to offer a large number of sacrifices.

This leader has said that the fear of the fall of B'abda has deprived the president of the advantage of controlling the rudder of government, especially when he felt that the ship was about to sink. Thus, the harsh circumstances forced him to unload the ship's material and human burdens. Lebanese politicians are unanimous that the president erred in arranging his priorities and thus proceeded to get rid of his private burdens one by one. A captain facing a similar problem begins by dumping coal overboard and then moves to luggage and supplies and then to passengers and crew whereas President al-Jumayyil has done the opposite. He started by dumping the multi-national forces, then the advisers and then his close associates to whom he had handed over the reins and then suddenly discovered that his ship was filled with yesterday's foes whom he had attacked and whose political positions he had opposed.

What is important is that this reexamination dictated the presence of a prime minister known previously as a "tamer of events." The late President Fu'ad Shihab selected this prime minister [Karami] in the wake of the 1958 rebellion to form the national reconciliation cabinet. But the structure of the first cabinet he formed and which included 14 ministers, among them Yusuf al-Sawda, did not please the Phalange and a counterrebellion erupted. Then the four-member cabinet was born with the approval of the majority and brought the interfighting to an end within a short period. Some deputies have said that Rashid Karami may resort to the same approach, i.e. that he has put together a formation [cabinet] that would be far from getting a vote of confidence so that he may end with the acceptance of a miniature cabinet. It is true that it includes notable personalities, parties and militias. But it is also true that excluded Kamil al-As'ad, Sa'ib Salam, the Islamic Grouping, the Independent Deputies Grouping and the Lebanese Forces. The prime minister answers that these forces are represented by Pierre al-Jumayyil, by Salim al-Huss and by him personally and that despite this, he is prepared to make a simple change in the portfolios as long as Nabih Birri, for example, cannot now reach the ministry of justice, which he heads.

Observers wonder if Prime Minister Karami is convinced of this mission or if he has formed an unharmonious cabinet that will perhaps be foiled before it reaches the Chamber of Deputies because he does not wish to play his previous role due to the change in circumstances and given facts. The problems he faced in 1958 were very small in comparison with today's major challenges and Karami knows that establishing peace is much more difficult than launching war. This is what Dr Salim al-Huss describes as the "great struggle." He also knows that the prescription he gave the Lebanese people in 1975 in the wake of the resignation of Rashid al-Sulh's cabinet was neither useful nor beneficial, especially since there are even before liberating the south, difficult phases that begin with liberating the Lebanese homeland from the war lords who have split the state and divided the power among themselves.

The objections emerging against this cabinet makeup have varied in volume and intensity. Taymond Iddih has not been interested so much in the cabinet's elements as in its political and security tasks. It is his belief that rebuilding Lebanon, revitalizing the state institutions and building the state are responsibilities that must be entrusted to ministers of state who are young technocrats detached from the climate of inter-fighting and partisanship. He also believes that there is a mistake in the distribution of the portfolios, considering that he is specialized in the field of finance and economy whereas the Ministry of Finance has been assigned to ex-President Sham'un. It requires a hundred Schachts and van Zeelands to get Lebanon out of the crises awaiting it. Therefore, ex-Prime Minister Salam believes that Karami has preferred to stay away from this cup and to choose the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, considering that his past eagerness to assume the Ministry of Finance was one of the constants of his political action. It seems that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has now become one of the absolutely most important ministries because it defines the direction of the state and charts the lines of the relations with the outside world. The foreign press has found it an important indicator that Elie Salim has been removed from this ministry which is now retained by Karami himself. Some commentators have repeatedly cited a statement by Prime Minister Karami in which he says that the relations with the Soviet Union must be at the level of the relations with the United States, and even higher. Considering that Karami is now in the government and that engineering the foreign policy has moved from B'abda to the government house, the observers expect a transformation in Lebanon's foreign policy--a transformation supported by Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri.

It is Prime Minister Karami's belief that the 9-year war has ended without serving anybody. Rather, it has ended with destruction, ruin and death. He believes that wars usually start in the minds of men. This is why he will try to create peace defenses in the minds of people. This requires creating a climate of conviction that national reconciliation is the only path for the homeland's survival. It is also Karami's opinion that the differences will continue to exist and that this is a sign of health and vigor in Lebanese society. What is required of the government in this phase is to channel attention toward the common interests in ways that make it possible to settle these differences. This means that the main challenge that will face Karami's mission in this difficult phase is confined to rescuing the homeland, not the cabinet.

BRIEFS

ANTI-ISRAELI CAMPAIGN--The clerics in southern Lebanon have tried to organize anti-IDF demonstrations on the occasion of the Ramadan feast which begins today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that during prayers in the mosques, the clerics delivered anti-Israeli sermons. Some even called openly for a Jihad, condoning the shedding of IDF soldiers' blood. Thousands of anti-Israeli inflammatory leaflets were distributed in southern Lebanese villages. The IDF soldiers have prepared for possible disturbances during the month of Ramadan. So far the soldiers have not been compelled to use force. [Text] [TA010610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jun 84]

LENIENT SECURITY MEASURES--The representatives of the Druze Community in southern Lebanon are requesting that the IDF reduce the security measures it has adopted. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the Druze complain that the security measures prevent them from marketing agricultural produce in northern Lebanon, receiving medical treatment in Beirut and visiting their relatives in the Al-Shuf mountains. Alternatively, they want to be compensated for the damages they incur and have the Israeli border opened to them. The Druze representatives have raised their complaints before the commander of the aid unit for southern Lebanese citizens, Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia, who promised to try to help them. [Text] [TA011046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Jun 84]

ARMS SMUGGLING ATTEMPTS UNCOVERED--A number of attempts to smuggle weapons and sabotage equipment through the civilian crossing points between Syrian and Israeli lines in Lebanon's Al-Biq'a' valley have been uncovered in recent weeks. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, who visited the crossing points, says mines and explosive materials were among the items hidden on both men and women coming from Syrian-held territory. Soldiers from the IDF Engineering Corps and women in the South Lebanese Army carry out the searches for arms or smuggled weaponry. Local residents, businessmen and Lebanese living abroad who want to visit relatives in the Al-Biq'a' are among the thousands of travelers who pass through the pedestrian crossing points each week. [Text] [TA011040 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Jun 84]

CLERICS INCITE AGAINST IDF--Heads of villages in southern Lebanon, as well as Shi'ite and Sunni dignitaries, have taken advantage of the Ramadan fast to organize acts of incitement against IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon. This is the first time that Sunni clerics have joined the incitement campaign. Dignitaries in the area urged their believers to do all they can to expell the "Zionist enemy" from Lebanese soil. Also in Friday's prayers in the mosques, the leaders of the Shi'ites and the Sunnis called for action against the IDF, and in this way to expedite its withdrawal from Lebanon. People in southern Lebanon explained that the incitement by the Sunni clerics came against the background of directions given by the Sunni leaders in Beirut, and it is also possible that the Lebanese Government is involved in cultivating Sunni hostility against Israel, which comes as an addition to the hostility shown by the Shi'ites. However, in spite of the instigation, there were no incidents involving locals against IDF forces on Friday or yesterday. [Excerpt] [Report by Menahem Rahat] [TA030909 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Jun 84 p 12]

RELATIONS WITH LEBANESE DRUZE--Two meetings were held in the last 2 weeks between the Followup Committee for Lebanese Druze Affairs and between the head of the liaison unit in Lebanon, Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia. The subject of the talks was the future of relations between the Druze community and Israel. The Followup Committee also held meetings with representatives of Walid Jumblatt's party, and with leaders of the Druze community in Hasbayya. Sources in the committee say that there is an improvement in the atmosphere between the Lebanese Druze and Israel, and that lately more understanding has been shown toward the problems of the Lebanese Druze. [Text] [Report by Nurit Kahana] [TA030811 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 84 p 2]

CSO: 4400/242

MUSLIM LEAGUE CALLS FOR UNITY AGAINST INDIA, USSR

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Bangladesh Muslim League (Siddikv) on Sunday called for national unity of patriotic forces to halt the aggressive designs of India and Soviet Union against the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The party which held a public meeting in the afternoon at the Stadium gate to protest against Indian action on the border, in a resolution blamed the Government for its failure to protect and safeguard independence and sovereignty to the republic

Presided over by party chief Justice B. A. Siddikv the protest meeting was also addressed by Seniro Vice-President A. N. M. Yusuf, Secretary-General Mrs. Razia Faiz Organizing Secretary A. Hannan conveners of Juba Muslim League A. K. M. Hannan and Zakir Hossain and leader of Jativa Gonotantik Party Rehan Begum.

Addressing the meeting, Justice Siddikv called upon all political parties to stop squabbling for power and work for national unity to resist border incursion by India. He accused some political parties for failing to raise voice against the designs of India to put barbed wire fencing along the border.

The Muslim League chief pointed out that since the country was facing external aggression and national sovereignty was threatened there should not be any political difference. He said the prime need of the hour was to work for the protection of national sovereignty and independence.

Referring to the elections Justice Siddikv demanded holding of parliamentary polls by November 15 before any other elections. He also demanded the announcement of dates for both presidential and parliament elections as soon as possible.

Justice Siddikv warned that Bangladesh would not let her sovereignty violated by any quarter and would uphold her independence at any cost. He asked President Ershad to show his might at the border and not upon the civilian population. Hold election quickly and go back to the barracks "he advised the General

Begun Razia Faiz demanded that bilateral trade with India be suspended till the border incursions were stopped. She asked the Government to raise the issue at the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Referring to the border incident, the Muslim League Secretary-General said it was the result of weak foreign policy which was appeasing India.

After the meeting an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi was burnt and various anti-Indian slogans were raised.

CSO: 4600/1860

TEXT OF BANGLADESH-OMAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] Following is the text of the joint communique issued in Dhaka on Saturday at the end of the official visit of His Excellency Mr Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Republic of Bangladesh from April 27-28, 1984:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Aminur Rahman Shams-ud Doha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of Bangladesh from April 27 to April 28, 1984.

His Excellency Mr Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah called on His Excellency Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He also called on His Excellency Mr A R Shams-ud Doha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and His Excellency Dr A Majeed-Kahn, Minister for Education of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The two Foreign Ministers assisted by their aides held several round of talks in an atmosphere marked by fraternal cordiality and friendly understanding. They reviewed the bilateral relations and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

While reviewing the global situation, the two Foreign Ministers underscored the importance of increasing efforts by all countries at promoting and strengthening international peace and security. They stressed the need for strict adherence to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter and the Nonaligned Movement and recognised the importance of scrupulous respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity of all states, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, non-use of force and peaceful settlement of all disputes.

The two Foreign Ministers pledged their cooperation in upholding the principles of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and underscored the need for unity and solidarity among the Muslim countries. They also called for closer cooperation among the members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in political, economic, social and cultural fields.

While reviewing the dangerous and explosive situation in West Asia, the two sides reaffirmed their conviction that a just and durable solution of the West Asia problem can be achieved only on the basis of Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including the Holy City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state in their own homeland under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, their sole and legitimate representative and the restoration of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Islamic sovereignty.

The two sides expressed their strong condemnation of Israel's continued illegal occupation of Lebanon and its continuous attempt to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. They reaffirmed the need for supporting all efforts for establishing peace and stability in Lebanon and the maintenance of its security, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. They also reiterated the necessity for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

They expressed their grave concern over the continued fratricidal hostilities between Iran and Iraq and appealed to them for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for a peaceful, just and honourable solution of their disputes.

The two Foreign Ministers reiterated their demand for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the need for creation of conditions in these two countries to enable the people to determine freely their own destiny without any outside interference or intervention.

They also condemned the racist policies in South Africa and reiterated their support to ensuring the independence of Namibia in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 435. They reiterated their determination to assist all efforts in the struggle against apartheid.

Reviewing the current international economic situation the two countries stressed the importance of accelerating the development of the developing countries and the need for an active participation by all developed countries in the establishment of the New International Economic Order based on justice, equity, sovereign equality and interdependence. They called for an early resumption of the 'global negotiations' between the developing and the developed countries with a view to reaching positive results for the benefit of all nations, particularly the developing countries. They also called for an early implementation of the "substantial new programme of action for the least developed countries."

The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the development of bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in the development of mutual cooperation in all spheres based on shared history and the fulfilment of their economic objectives. They stressed the need for further widening and expanding areas of mutual cooperation. The two sides also explored the possibility of increasing the volume of trade and commerce between the two countries.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh briefed the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman on the overall situation in the South Asian region and particularly

in Bangladesh to improve relations with its neighbouring countries. In this connection, he also explained the progress achieved in regard to the seven-nation South Asian Regional Cooperation. The Omani Minister expressed deep appreciation of Bangladesh efforts in this direction.

He also lauded the Bangladesh Government's efforts for the welfare of the people of Bangladesh and assured his Government's fullest cooperation in the efforts of Bangladesh in various socio-economic sectors:

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman expressed his gratitude to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh for the generous hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation. He extended an invitation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to pay an official visit to Oman at his convenience in the near future. The invitation was accepted with great pleasure.

CSO: 4600/1861

MUSLIM LEADER FOR BREAKING TIES WITH INDIA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Text:] May 5: Mr. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Joint Secretary of Muslim League (Siddiky)-today demanded that the government sever diplomatic relations and cancel all treaties with India in protest against recent provocative border incidents.

He called upon the government not to hold any discussion with India on the plea of solving the problems bilaterally.

Mr Chowdhury was addressing a big public rally at the Laldhigi Maidan this afternoon organised in protest against India's naked aggression on the territory of Bangladesh.

Presided over by Muslim League Vice President Al-haj Alimullah, the rally also was addressed, among others, by Education and Cultural Secretary of the party Mr Atiqul Islam, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury and Saleh Imam Chowdhury.

Demanding immediate national elections, Mr Chowdhury said only an elected government supported by organised Majahe-deen could face the expansionist forces and defend the independence and sovereignty of the nation. He urged the government to apprise the international forums of the Indian aggression against Bangladesh.

He warned that "a capitulationist foreign policy and loyalty to India" would not help establish the causes of Bangladesh.

Criticising some political parties and a section of the intelligentsia, he said that they had not raised their voices even when some members of the so-called "Nikhil Bangla Nagarik Sangha" (who are Indian nationals) intruded into Bangladesh and distributed leaflets in favour of cessation of seven districts.

He said those politicians and intellectuals held gaebana janaza for even "those persons who were killed for their involvement in immoral activities, but they forgot about their responsibility to Shaheed BDR hero Motiur Rahman."

Referring to Awami League's politics, Mr. Chowdhury said the AL leaders got the votes of the Hindus in the 1970 election with the promise that they would repeal the Enemy Property Act. But when they came to power they renamed the Enemy Property Act as the Vested Property Act and continued repression against the Indus.

Criticising the foreign policy of the then Awami League government he said, due to the Indira-Mujib agreement of 1974 the border was open for smuggling out Bangladesh goods into India, thus inflicting heavy economic loss on our country. After December 16, 1971 Indian troops had looted away goods from Bangladesh in the guise of friends, he said.

CSO: 4600/1870

PAPER REPORTS VISIT OF YASIR 'ARAFAT TO DHAKA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 May 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had "important talks" in Dhaka on Saturday morning with President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen H. M. Ershad during his brief stop over on his way to China reports BSS.

After the talks Yasser Arafat told newsmen that he would pick up the thread of the discussions on his way back from China when he would make a similar stop-over. He praised the role of Bangladesh for its support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

The Chairman of Palestine Liberation Organisation who was in Dhaka for nearly one hour and a half paid warm tributes to President Gen. Ershad for his efforts to the cause of the Palestinian people and called him one of the "greatest leaders" of the Islamic Ummah.

The PLO leader was received at the airport by President Ershad, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator Air vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud Foreign Minister Mr A. R. Shams ud-Doha and high civil and military officials when he arrived early in the morning.

Mr. Arafat expressed his confidence that the cooperation between Bangladesh and the PLO would continue in the spirit "as we have done" in the last Islamic summit in Cassablanca. He also referred to cooperative efforts in Fex meeting in this connection.

The PLO chief appreciated the "Strong" support of President Ershad and the people of Bangladesh to the cause of Jerusalem and referred to a "very dangerous conspiracy" against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat said he was confident of the "continuous support" of Bangladesh to the Palestinian cause "as we are brothers" and working together for the same purpose till the final victory is achieved. He was also hopeful that the joint efforts would help stop the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Arafat said he was happy to have talks with President Ershad and added the Palestinian people treat the people of Bangladesh as "very close to our cause".

The PLO leader said he was "grateful" to the Bangladesh leader for his contributions to the cause of the Islamic Ummah Arab nation and the Palestinian people, "We consider him as one of our greatest leaders of the Islamic Ummah," he added.

Mr Arafat pointed out that President Reagan in an "Important message" to President Ershad had said that the United States would not shift its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Replying to a question if he was ready to talk with Israel through the UN mediation the PLO Chairman said that he wanted a "just permanent and lasting" solution to the Palestinian problems through the efforts of the Security Council of the United Nations and that the Israelis should also follow the same.

Foreign Minister Mr. Doha later told the journalists that President Ershad received reply from the US President Ronald Reagan last month assuring that their embassy in Israel would not be shifted to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

During the brief talks at the airport, he said, Mr Arafat informed President Ershad about the developments in the Middle East including that in Lebanon and the Palestinian struggle for a just solution to their problem.

Mr. Doha said the Palestinian leader would come to Bangladesh Thursday next on his way back from China for a day's visit.

CSO: 4600/1871

POLITICAL PARTIES' RESOLUTIONS CONDEMN INDIA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Apr 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Different political parties in separate resolutions and statements condemned the unilateral erection of barbedwire fence along Bangladesh border by Indian Border Security Force and killing of BDR personnel by Indian GSR at Bhurungamari. The statements bitterly criticised the provocative activities of the expansionist India in border areas and observed that it was a threat to the independence and sovereignty of our country.

The central executive committee of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal in a resolution adopted in its three-day meeting observed that the attack on BDR recently in the border has proved the expansionist design of India. The resolution bitterly criticised the Bangladesh Government for not disclosing actual information to the people and for failure to raise the issue in international forum.

JSD central committee called upon the Indian Government to show good neighbourly behaviour and to resolve the controversial issues like barbed wire fencing and Farakka through negotiation. It also demanded of the Government to raise the issue in the international forum.

Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (M-L) (Alauddin) in a resolution adopted in its meeting on Friday termed the erection of barbedwire fence, opening of fire by BSF killing BDR personnel and provocative activities of Indian security forces in border areas as interference on the sovereignty of Bangladesh. The meeting urged all patriotic forces to unite on this issue.

Democratic League held street corner meetings at Gulistan and Mouchak on Friday in support of public meeting organised by the party on May 2 at Baitul Mukarram. DL will hold the public meeting to voice their protest against Indian provocative activities in the border.

Party Chief Khondakar Mustaque Ahmed will address the public meeting.

Bangladesh Muslim League (T. Ali) will bring out a procession at 10 a.m. on April 30 from party central office at Allahwala Building to protest the Indian aggressive acts in border areas.

Choudhury Mahmudul Huq, President of Bangladesh Progressive League in a statement on Friday said that through the provocative activities in border areas Indian expansionism wants to prove that she is a super power in the subcontinent. He called for resolving the problems with Bangladesh by April 30 failing which his party will launch a movement against India.

Muslim League (Rais); Bangladesh Justice Party; Jamiatul Ansar and Young Muslim Society will bring out a torch-light procession at 7 p.m. from Baitul Mukarram to Bahadur Shah Park to voice protest against Indian incursions, and demanding withdrawal of Martial Law on May 2. These parties will also jointly stage a sit down demonstration in front of Indian High Commission in Dhaka on May 3 at 10 a.m. The Farakka Songram Parishad headed by Moulana Abdul Matin will hold a rally at 3 p.m. on May 12 at Baitul Mukarram to protest against firing by Indian security forces.

CSO: 4600/1857

REPORTAGE ON EXPLOSIONS AT DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE MEETING

Death, Injuries

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] A series of explosions in a public meeting organised by the Democratic League killed one and injured at least 20 others yesterday evening at Baitul Mukarram square.

The explosions took place no sooner than Khondakar Mushtaq rose to address the rally.

None of the injured persons were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of them, one Momtaz Ali, 50, a peanut vendor, died at the hospital soon after he was taken there. Condition of another person admitted to the hospital is said to be critical.

Meanwhile, Democratic League has called a half-day hartal on May 5 in protest against the explosion. The party will also hold the namaz-e-janaza of Momtaz Ali today after Johr prayer at Baitul Mukarram.

The incident took place at about 6 p.m. when the Democratic League chief Khondakar Mushtaq Ahmed stood up on the dais to address the gathering. Within moments of beginning his address, three crackers exploded a few yards away from the dais and people started running helter skelter for safety.

Khondakar Mushtaq, Mr. Oli Ahad and other senior leaders of the party stayed on the dais. Mr. Oli Ahad requested the people to remain peaceful despite all sorts of provocation and conspiracy by the lackies of 'the foreign power'.

After the explosion, police took injured Momtaz Ali to a police van and later admitted him to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

Police also recovered one unexploded cracker from the spot. According to Mr Abdus Salam DC (South) the crackers were made locally. He said, a total of 16 persons were injured of them nine seriously, one died and 7 received first aid from DMCH. No person was arrested after the incident, according to Motijheel thana. Hospital sources say the injured persons are Jalal (30), Dulal (40), Ashraf (20), Swapan (20), Barek (45), Ismail (10), Aziz (15) and Abdul Gani (45).

Khondakar Mushtaq Ahmed addressed the meeting for over 40 minutes after the incident and Mr. Oli Ahad read out the resolution of the meeting.

In his speech, Khondakar Mushtaq described the blast as the conspiracy hatched by the lackies of the 'aggressive power.' He warned the local agents of the power but did not mention any name or any group or individual involved in the incident. He, however, alleged that the Ershad government is the local collaborator of the aggressive power. He appealed to the people to come forward to preserve the sovereignty and independence of the country, which, he said was not at stake.

Referring to the blast incident, the DL leader said, bomb blasts in public meetings could not subjugate the people's democratic zeal. Those who do not appreciate the idea of protesting Indian incursions were possibly behind the incident, he said.

Mr. Ahmed said the barbed wire fencing of the Indian government has tarnished the image of the country in the outside world. He said that the Indian government has been taking the advantage of the existence of weak and temporary military government of Bangladesh and emphasised the need for creating resistance against the aggressive power. He said India is violating the sanctity of the independence of Bangladesh.

Khondakar Mushtaq called upon the conscious and freedom-loving people of the country to create resistance against the aggressive steps of the Indira government. He said India has already grabbed Talpatty, Dabagram Angarpota and created Farakka for exhausting the vitality of the Bangladesh economy. If there had been an elected government in Bangladesh India would have known the real pulse of the nation, he said.

Khondakar Mushtak called upon the ruling government to immediately transfer power to the elected representative of the people, if not the May 23 will be the dooms day of the government when he will announce the next programme of action, he added.

Referring to the law and order situation, the Democratic League chief said the situation has been deteriorating day by day and government has failed to resolve problems of the public life. He however, said that this government has no right to interfere in any of the fundamental issues like education, civil administration, judiciary, land reforms etc.

He said card-core criminal with 47 murder cases to his credit was released on request from the political parties so why you have hanged Imdu who would have been released if had he been alive this time he asked General Ershad. Imudu's associate was released, and all murderers, criminals and anti-socials were released, he added.

Khondakar Mushtaq criticised the dilly-dallying tactics of the government in transferring power by holding dialogue. He also alleged that General Ershad and a few other generals have brought the armed forces face to face with the people.

The meeting was organised by city Democratic League in protest against the border aggression. Presided over by Professor Badiuzzaman Khan it was addressed, among others, by Mr. Oli Ahad, Senior Vice President and Mian Abdur Rashid, General Secretary of the party.

The meeting in resolution called upon the people to create resistance against the border aggression by India and lauded the indomitable spirit of the BDR personnel. The resolution held the subservient attitude of the government responsible for the flagrant violation of the country's independence and sovereignty.

In another resolution the meeting criticised the government for prolonging martial law on different pretexts and for avoiding peaceful ways to resolve the issue. The resolution also cautioned against any possible announcement for postponing the election. It also expressed concern over the upward trend of the prices of essential items and held government policy responsible for this.

It can be mentioned, explosions in another public meeting of the Democratic League four years back, held at Baitul Mukarram square barely three metres away from yesterday, venue, killed nine persons including a journalist.

Khandakar Moshtaque Ahmed had then blamed late President Ziaur Rahman for masterminding the incident.

Press Note on Incident

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday issued the following Press Note on Wednesday's Stadium Gate incident, reports BSS.

The Press Note said: "The Government has viewed with deep concern the incident on Wednesday, May 2, 1984 when some anti-social elements sought to disrupt a meeting organised by a political party at Baitul Mukarram, Dhaka by exploding bombs. As a result, one innocent person lost his valuable life and a number of persons sustained injuries.

"It is needless to mention that such acts of violence and hooliganism are utterly reprehensible and cannot be approved by any sane person who believes in democratic norms and principles. The Government would like to appeal to all concerned to desist from resorting to such activities and to behave in a responsible manner.

"An investigation has already been ordered by the Government to apprehend the persons responsible for the incident and to bring them to justice".

CSO: 4600/1866

COMMITTEE MEETS WITH ERSHAD, ASKS FARAKKA TALKS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The Farakka and Border Aggression Resistance Committee held talks with the Government in Dhaka on Saturday night on important national issues including Farakka, Talpatti and barbed wire fencing problems, reports BSS.

Comprising ten political parties the committee on Saturday night submitted their 7-point demand to President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad during the talks.

Briefing the Press at Banglabhaban following the talks the Special Assistant to the President Mr. A R. Yusuf said the committee's suggestion for holding a national conference on Farakka problem was accepted by the President who said that soon such a conference would be arranged by his Government.

The committee leaders demanded the revival of the suspended constitution and held that the election of the President and Parliament must be held on the basis of the suspended constitution, Mr. Yusuf said.

The committee also asked the government for holding the two elections on the same day and it should take place not before November, the Special Assistant to the President said.

Mr Yusuf said that the committee leaders registered their appreciation on the rejection by General Ershad's government of the Indian proposal of a link-canal between the Ganges and Brahmaputra for augmenting the Ganges water flow.

It is for the first time that Bangladesh Government has made it categorically clear that there could not be any link canal proposition acceptable to Bangladesh, Mr. Yusuf said.

Mr. Yusuf said that the President categorically denied of having any survey operation undertaken by Bangladesh Government recently from which South Talpatti island had been omitted. No such question arises since Bangladesh has no survey operation in its hand at present.

The committee was led by Mrs Amena Begun which is consisted of Bangladesh Jatiya Dal, Frisliak Sranlik Party, Pragatishil Granatantrik Shakti (Pragash), Bangladesh Republican Party, Bangladesh People's League, Bangladesh Hindu Oikkya Front, Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League, National Democratic Party National Democratic Party, Islami Biplobi Parishad and Nezame Islami Party.

ERSHAD HOLD DIALOGUE WITH MUSLIM PARTY LEADERS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad held talks in Dhaka on Sunday evening with the six-party Ulema Front and Muslim League (T. Ali) on national issues, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen the Special Assistant to the President Mr A. R. Yusuf said the Front and the Muslim League mainly demanded the introduction of Islamic provisions and announcement of the date of national elections.

In separate meetings the Ulema Front was represented by leaders while the Muslim League was represented by 16 led by Mr. T. Ali. President Ershad was aided by the Prime Minister Home and Establishment Ministers and Special Assistant to the President.

The Ulema Front demanded the revival of the suspended constitution and holding of the both presidential and parliamentary elections on the basis of the suspended constitution, Mr. Yusuf said.

They he said also vehemently opposed the claim of the two alliances that the five-point demand had become a national demand on the grounds that the demands did not contain any Islamic provision.

The ulema congratulated President for establishing Zakat Board, declaration of Friday as weekly holiday setting up Islamic missions and beautifying and completing construction of Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

They also expressed their "satisfaction" at the appointment of elderly leader Mr. Ataur Rahman as the Prime Minister.

In its 14-point demand Bangladesh Muslim League (T. Ali) stressed the demand for declaring Islam as the state religion in order to declare Bangladesh as an Islamic republic, Mr. Yusuf said.

The Muslim League also demanded immediate declaration of national election dates, he added. They also made it very clear that they wanted the revival of the suspended constitution, he said.

ERSHAD AIDE REPORTS ON END OF DIALOGUE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 May 84 pp 1, 14

[Text] The dialogue between the Government and the 75 political parties ended on Thursday with the second round of talks with Muslim League (Siddiqui).

The President is expected to announce his decision regarding the national elections within a couple of days and a group of aides are working hard to accommodate the common points of all parties in the President's announcement.

The presidential aide Mr. A. R. Yusuf indicated that although it would not be possible to accept all the demands of political parties, the Government was in a much better position after having talks to take decision with regard to the national elections. "In course of talks with political parties we know what should be the minimum common ground" Mr. Yusuf stated.

Replying to a question about the positive outcome of the dialogue Mr. Yusuf said all concerned now know the viewpoints of others better and a channel of communication has been built up between the Government and political parties which was all along very strenuous. With oblique reference to 15-Party Alliance's contention about Mr. Yusuf's statement on the dialogue the presidential aide said that the negotiation and public position should be complementary. "Not a single word of whatever I have said is misleading" Barrister Yusuf said.

Regarding talks with Muslim League Mr. Yusuf told newsmen that the Muslim League leaders had opposed any Martial Law proclamation with regard to Constitution except one for transition. They also supported the revival of the suspended Constitution and holding of Parliament elections first followed by Presidential election with a short interval so that the elected President can summon the Parliament within one month from the date of Parliament election.

The Muslim League leaders further demanded announcement of the election schedule of both the elections simultaneously which must be completed by November 15 this year. They further urged the Government to abolish the Martial Law courts and transfer the pending cases to civil courts. They appealed to the President to pardon those who are still in jail being convicted for collaboration during the War of Liberation. They will give a list of such persons. The ML leaders emphatically demanded that the Farakka, Talpatty and border issues should be taken up on the international forums particularly in OIC.

The Government is likely to accommodate common points of both the alliances for holding Parliament election first. President will also phase out the abolition of Martial Law administration in his announcement and is likely to restore the writ jurisdiction of the High Court by reviving Clause 2 of the Article 102 of the suspended Constitution.

CSO: 4600/1867

PANEL REPORTS PROBLEMS IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quasem]

[Text] Lack of clarity about national goals and organisational objectives, poor coordination and erosion of the moral values have been identified as some of the root causes of administrative inefficiency of the government machinery.

A study group, under the direct supervision of the Council Committee on administrative improvement, in a recent enquiry identified these causes, among others, as the stumbling blocks to the proper functioning of the state machinery.

The malfunctioning has now reached a historical peak and the administration has lost its efficiency and dynamism. The study observed that the personnel management including performance appraisal and career development of officers are mainly based on subjective judgment rather than objective evaluation resulting in poor quality of work.

The centralised planning with weak data base is said to be the main flaw of the administration. Data are often collected from the secondary sources which gives misleading pictures of the state of affairs. High level policy papers are regularly prepared and decisions taken on this shoddy basis. The existing system of horizontal and vertical coordination between different sectors-both at ministerial and field levels is found to be very dissatisfactory. As a result, most of the development projects fall far short of expectation.

The study group observed the lack of rational personnel policy to make best use of the trained manpower in inefficient manner. Many of the senior officers have been suffering from the frustration and mutual distrust and low morals owing to inadequate wage, lack of appropriate leadership in staff raising and group dynamics.

Corruption like nepotism and bribery are also on increase.

The centralised and departmentalised process of administration and planning have virtually made the officials responsible to none. The study identified

the gap between the people and civil servants as the cause behind the dependence on foreign assistance. Together with this there is little initiative to mobilise the internal resources through participatory development, the study observed.

It further said the investments are highly biased towards the rural and urban elites while the cost of these investments are paid by the poor section of the society. There is increased polarisation between the rich and the poor in the society, whatever may be the development the report said.

The report, however, mentioned the flaw in the system of procedure of decision making and said that the political participation is mainly open to rural and urban elites.

The report has also cited some shortcomings of planning, data system and development of the water sector.

The report cited the case of the Planning Commission and said that the planners have formulated three national development plans but they were unable to determine the intersectoral priorities of objectives in national development plans. Despite the fact that the First Five Year Plan wanted socialism, its exact nature and character remained largely vague. The two year transitional plan (1978-80) however failed to give a new direction to the country and it attached highest priority to growth and lowest to the basic needs.

The draft of the Second Five Year Plan reversed the ordering without any explanation and the revised SFYP listed people's participation in the sixth place in development activities instead of second in the draft SFYP. The plan mainly based on the guess work rather than the actual estimates and planning in the vacuum, the report observed.

The report also mentioned that there has been little local involvement in either planning or implementation stage in the water sector and suspected that over dependence on foreign consultants in central level planning has reversed the order of priority.

CSO: 4500/1869

MISSIONS ABROAD TO DRAW ATTENTION TO BORDER PROBLEMS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh has drawn world attention to the tension prevailing along the border due to India's mobilisation of forces in connection with erecting barbed wire fence.

Bangladesh missions abroad have been instructed to make world people aware of the threat to its sovereignty and independence by Indian troops deployment along the borders and incidents of firing by BSF on Bangladesh Rifles and innocent civilians.

According to reports reaching in Dhaka, India has deployed nearly 21 thousand regular and para-military forces along the border. Bangladesh has already lodged protest with Delhi expressing her concern, but the Indian government is maintaining complete silence. India even did not respond to the Bangladesh offer for talks at official level to work out solution to the border issue necessary in the interest of peaceful coexistence.

Earlier, President Ershad proposed Foreign Minister level talks between the two countries. But India did not agree to the proposal saying that "it is not realistic".

In a reminder to Delhi recently Dhaka pointed out that erecting of barbed wire fence is contrary to the 1975 Border Guide Lines and it is clearly mentioned in the Guide Lines that all sorts of military structures within 150 yards of the border must be destroyed. But India is erecting barbed wire fence along the border in violation of that the Guide Lines.

A highly placed source indicated that if the border situation continued to deteriorate, Bangladesh may raise the issue at the international forum. Bangladesh, however, prefers to deal with the issue bilaterally, he said.

A high-level meeting of the government was also held yesterday in this regard, but the decision of the meeting could not be known. Meanwhile, President Ershad has announced that he would convene a national conference on the issue.

CSO: 4600/1862

HOME MINISTER: FENCING BORDER GUIDELINE VIOLATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 May 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Home Minister Major General Abdul Mamman Siddiqui said in Dhaka on Monday that the Indian construction of barbed-wire fence was in "clear violation" of the joint Indo-Bangladesh Border Guidelines which prohibits "defensive works of any nature" within 150 yards on either side.

Talking to BSS the Minister pointed out that worse still these constructions were done on the zero-line of the border" in open disregard to the universally accepted international norm" that no structure is erected unilaterally on the zero line of any border between two countries.

The Minister was commenting when his attention was drawn to a statement made by the Indian Home Minister, Mr. P C Sethi, in the Parliament on April 26 that the construction of the barbed-wire fence was not "contrary to the 1975 Border Guidelines.

The Minister in particular pointed out the provisions of Article 8 OE) of the Guidelines which "clearly and unambiguously" prohibits defensive works of any nature within 150 yards on either side of the border.

The Minister asserted that such constructions were infringement on Bangladesh's sovereignty, as the zero-line belonged to both the countries.

Gen Siddiqui referred to the incidents in the border and said at the operational level, the Bangladesh Rifles had consistently been requesting for meetings at various local levels but the Indian side showed reluctance to hold such meetings. The constructions and provocative actions continued unabated despite repeated attempts by Bangladesh to resolve the issue through negotiations, he regretted.

Gen Siddiqui said Bangladesh rejects the barbed-wire fence as it was incompatible with the spirit of good neighbourliness, cooperation, mutual understanding and friendly relations between the two countries. It was in the interest of friendly relations that Bangladesh urged the Indian authorities to refrain from constructing barbed-wire fence, he said.

The Home Minister pointed out that Bangladesh Rifles had shown extreme restraint in the face of continuous unilateral and provocative actions by the Indian border security force. He said the Indian BSF fired the first shot. They opened fire on unarmed civilians on April 6 when they were demonstrating within Bangladesh territory against these constructions. He said BDR displayed great patience and restraint and did not return the fire.

Referring to the incident of April 20, the Home Minister said that BDR protested against the attempts to forcibly erect some concrete pillars on the zero line of the border when the BSF fired without any provocation, which resulted in the death of a BDR personnel and serious injury to another. It was again the BSF who had fired the first shot obliging the BDR to open fire in self-defence he added.

The Home Minister said similarly on the 24th of April, when the BDR personnel were returning to their post after protesting against attempts by India to put up such structures, the BSF fired the first shots on them (BDR) without any provocation. BSF also opened fire on Sonarhat border outpost of Bangladesh and then BDR opened fire only in self-defence he said.

Recounting the diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue, General Siddiqui said the Indian authorities were repeatedly urged to adopt urgent and immediate measures to stop constructions and defuse the tension in the border area. He said Indian High Commission and the Acting High Commissioner were repeatedly called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and protest notes were handed over to them.

The Home Minister said that the unilateral decision to construct the barbed-wire fence by India has introduced a totally avoidable irritant in the bilateral relations between the two countries. He regretted that it should have been done at a time when efforts were being made to create a climate congenial to the promotion of good neighbourliness, cooperation and understanding in the region.

Gen. Siddiqui said that Bangladesh continued to attach utmost importance to the development and strengthening of the existing friendly bilateral relations between the two countries. He said, it was in the interest of these friendly relations that Bangladesh urged the Indian authorities to refrain from the construction of barbed wire fence along the border.

CSO: 4600/1864

BANGLADESHIS IN ENCLAVES PANIC OVER FENCE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] RANGPUR; May 6: Thousands of Bangladeshis living in enclaves are in great panic for erecting barbed wire fence by Indians along border. There are at least 131 Bangladeshi enclaves lying inside Indian territory throughout border belts.

Total areas of these enclaves are five thousand square miles with three lakh population. Enclaves, people though identified as Bangladesh citizens they are particularly passing inhuman and captive life for years together.

No help reached to them from the government and none made any enquiry about them.

The problems of enclaves yet remained unresolved. The current move by Indian authority to erect barbed wire fencing along zero line parallel to international boundary pillars spread panic among enclaves people. When talking with some people of Masaldanga enclaves of Bhurangamari Mr. Rahimuddin Bepari, Mr. Lokannuddin expressed grave attempt to erect barbed wire fencing with an attempt to keep them inside India. Masaldanga is second biggest enclaves in district with about five thousand population. They said entire people of this enclave now passing days and night with great concern. They, however, said that we would fight to last to resist erection of barbed wire fencing. However, people of enclaves expressed anxiety that they would become Indian national if India succeeded to erect barbed wire fencing.

The people of enclaves are now preparing to shed last drop of blood to resist erection of barbed wire fencing.

CSO: 4600/1874

MINISTER REPORTS INDIAN LINK CANAL PLAN REJECTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 May 84 pp 1, 16

[Text] Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Khan on Sunday reiterated that the present government had for the first time formally rejected the Indian link canal proposal reports BSS.

Addressing an impromptu Press conference at his office Mr. Khan said that the question of augmentation of dry season Ganges flows and the two proposals for it--link canal of India and building storage reservoirs in Nepal--proposed by Bangladesh came up in May 1974 in Mujib-Indira joint declaration.

Later on he said, in the 1977 agreement for sharing the Ganges waters the two countries agreed to study schemes relating to the augmentation of the dry season flows of Ganges proposed or to be proposed by either government for finding a solution which is economical and feasible.

The two governments he said again agreed to hold the pre-feasibility studies of both the proposals while signing the Memorandum of Understanding in October 1982 following talks between Gen. Ershad and Mrs Gandhi.

He said that at the subsequent discussions at the JRC led by the two countries' Irrigation Ministers the last round of which was held in April last neither side could agree on the proposal of the other and rejected each other's proposal.

Mr. Khan said that in the recent past "we heard a lot of views expressed on the question by different parties and personalities.

But the Minister did not agree with the suggestion that he was holding the Press conference because Rear Admiral (Retd) M. H. Khan a former DCMA and Presidential Adviser for Water Resources Flood Control and Power had given a Press interview on the Farakka issue.

The Minister said that he has proposed to India for continuation of the present Ganges sharing arrangement at least for three years and settle the question by October.

He added he has not so far received any reply from India and added he was "optimistic"

Asked to comment on the Indian Irrigation Minister's recent statement in Calcutta saying that the link canal proposal was the best plan for augmentation Mr. Khan said. "I can also say that Bangladesh's proposal for constructing storing reservoirs in Nepal for the purpose is the best solution"

Replying to another question of the Indian Irrigation Minister's recent statement in which he said that continuation of the present Ganges sharing agreement was no solution rather it would be a wastage of time. Mr. Khan said he had received no official communication to that effect.

Mr. Khan said that he was optimistic about continuation of the present sharing agreement.

The Minister said that in 1975 the two countries signed an agreement for sharing the Ganges for 41 days for "field testing".

He added that in 1975 the two augmentation proposals were discussed at the JRC from its eighth to 13th meetings. At the 13th meeting he said the Indian link canal proposal was rejected by Bangladesh at the official level.

The Minister said that Bangladesh took the Farakka issue to the UN in 1976 after India started unilaterally withdrawing the Ganges waters.

The negotiations resumed again and culminated in the 1977 agreement for sharing the Ganges waters, he added.

Asked whether Bangladesh's interest suffered because of dropping of the guarantee clause while signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with India in October 1982 Mr. Khan said the MOU has a provision for burden sharing under which in exceptional circumstances the shortfall in the Ganges would be shared by the two countries on 50-50 basis. This he said would protect Bangladesh's interest.

Under the guarantee clause provision of the 1977 Ganges sharing agreement in no circumstance of extraordinary low flow in the Ganges caused by nature Bangladesh would get less than 80 per cent of its agreed share.

An eight-member Bangladesh team leaves Dhaka today (Monday) for New Delhi to participate in a two-day secretary level meeting with India for sharing the Teesta waters JRC sources in Dhaka told BSS on Sunday.

The meeting which begins on Tuesday is scheduled to complete documentation on Teesta water sharing.

The team to be led by Irrigation Secretary Syed Shamim Ashan will include JRC member Mr. Amjad Hussain Khan Director General, Foreign Office C. M. Shafi Sami JRC Member Dr. Ain-Un-Nishat Chief Engineer Water Development Board, Nurul Huda, Director of JRC A.S.M. Quasem and Executive Engineers of JRC Abdul Khaleque and Tauhidul Anwar Khan.

REPORTAGE ON WORKERS STRIKE ; DEMANDS LISTED

Prime Minister's Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan on Friday appealed to the workers to refrain from creating any 'unpleasant situation' during their threatened strike today (Saturday), reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at his official residence in Dhaka on Friday evening, Mr Khan said that any 'unpleasant situation' may hinder the process of transition to democracy.

He, however, said that Government would not take action against the striking workers, adding law would take its own course.

The Prime Minister, who held two-hour long talks with leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikkyo Parishad SKOP representing 13 workers federations, on Friday morning, said we have not yet closed the discussions.

Labour Minister, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) K M Aminul Islam also attended the Press conference.

The Prime Minister said that the Government on Friday proposed a scale of Taka 405 for the unskilled industrial labour pending the announcement of the minimum Wage Commission. But the workers' leaders did not agree to that, he added.

The Labour Minister said that the Government was contemplating to give 20 per cent Dearness Allowance for the workers over the existing 30 per cent from July next.

He said that at present there are 16 registered national federations of which nine belong to the 13 striking federations. He said the remaining seven federations were not joining the strike.

The seven federations are Bangladesh Swadhim Trade Union Federation Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League (Mannan) Jatiya Sramik League, Bangladesh (Rahmatullah)

Jatiya Sramik Dal Bangladesh (Delwar) Sramik Kallyan Federation, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress and Bangladesh Sramik Federation (Daha).

Call for 'Total Strike'

Sramik Karachari Oikkyia Parishad which comprises thirteen national trade union federations has given a call for a twentyfour hour 'total strike' all over the country on Saturday in support of its five point demand, says a Press release signed by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik.

A press release issued by the Parishad in Dhaka on Friday night said hospital ambulance firebrigade, newspapers, newspaper press and emergency electricity service would be exempted from the strike call.

List of Demands

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28, 29 Apr 84

[28 Apr 84 pp 1, 8]

[Text] Following are the 40 points demands of the 'Sramik Karmachari Uikkyia Parishad' submitted before the Government, says BSS.

- 1) Right to free trade union activities democratic and fundamental right, right of meeting, procession, strike and election of leader of their choice etc according to I.L.O. charted, must be ensured.
- 2) Industrial Relation (Control) Ordinance, 1982 Section 19-A of the Ordinance withdrawal of all black laws Martial Law Regulations including 19 M.L.R.
- 3) Reinstatement of retrenched, surplus and dismissed workers, employees
- 4) Stopping of repression and oppression.
- 5) Release of imprisoned workers must be ensured.
- 6) Ensuring security of service, issuing of appointment letters, service book fixation of working hours and leaves. (Incomplete)

[29 Apr 84 p 3]

[Text] Following is the remaining part of the news item under the headline 'SKOP's Demands'. First portion of the news item was published in our Saturday's issue.

- (7) Taking punitive measures against those owners who violate the laws.
- (8) Removal of discrepancy of working hours in respect of the Government employees.

(9) Ensuring fixation of minimum wage, issuing of appointment letters, job security for the workers of agricultural farm, jute press and bailing, godown and construction workers, enactment of laws to stop repression by middlemen including fixation of working hours and leave.

(10) Vesting powers to the labour courts to determine charges against the dismissed workers and to determine whether the punishment meted out to them are justified.

(11) Stopping of handing over of the nationalised industries and establishments indiscriminately to the private owners, protection of nationalisation and to build up those as the base of national economy.

(12) Ensuring workers participation in management and control of industries for better and democratic management and securing of collective decision and management.

(13) Punishing those who indulged in corruption by showing under profit accounts for sick industries for showing them as non-profit earning or for corruption committed by selling those industrial units at less than market price by selling or transferring the nationalised units at less than market price.

(14) Demanded set-ups for recovery of looted public property through confiscating property or fine.

(15) The owners should be forced to run those private mills and which were closed either fully or temporarily on charge of corruption, inefficiency or any other reason.

(16) If required, these mills and factories should be brought under state control.

(17) Arrears should be paid at the rate of 30 per cent since July, 1982, to all workers of all private and public mills and factories.

(18) Arrangement should be made for gradual increase of eariness allowance in keeping with the market price.

(19) Arrangement should be made for the supply essentials commodities at a fixed and cheap rate and price spiral should be checked.

(20) To announce the report of the Industrial Wages Commission of 1981 and to implement those in consultation with the workers' representatives and to give those effect from July, 1981.

(21) To constitute a permanent commission with workers' representatives the wages, salaries and allowances of the workers and employees.

(22) Fixation of Taka 650 as basic national pay for all workers and employees of Government, semi-government and private mills, factories, offices and organisations.

- (23) Payment of interim relief till the implementation of the commission report.
- (24) Removal of disparity in the wages, salaries, allowances, leaves and working hours, etc.
- (25) Immediate implementation of the Wage Board Report for workers of privately owned industries and organisations.
- (26) Payment of annual festival bonus to workers of all levels of the Government. Semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies.
- (27) To revert back to the old practice, abandoning the system of payment of gratuity for 14 days being made in some industrial concerns cancelling the practice for gratuity for 30 days.
- (28) To pay the piece rate workers according to the previous rates in factories where their rates have been reduced.
- (29) Immediate creation of industrial courts to deal with the cases instituted by industrial and inspection bureaus.
- (30) Build up industries by reducing expenditure in unproductive and un-useful sectors.
- (31) Ensure markets for the country's products.
- (32) Imposition of heavy restrictions on imports.
- (33) Checking smuggling.
- (34) To stop import of luxury goods and those for unproductive sectors.
- (35) To make revolutionary reform and re-structure the basic rural life in the interest of the members of the working class.
- (36) Ensure minimum wage of day-labourers in both the farms and factories.
- (37) To face the situation by changing the basic rural life by industrialisation and application of appropriate technology.
- (38) Reduce dependence on foreign countries in the interest of independent national progressive economy.
- (39) Resist imperialism and,
- (40) Make constitutional restrictions to resist foreign capital and anti-national activities of multinational corporations.

Some Demands Accepted

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The government Saturday gave a detailed account of the measures it took to meet the demands of the Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad within the limitations of resources available and the negotiations at high levels, reports BSS.

President himself, a government handout said, met the representatives of the Oikyo Parishad first on April 19 and later on April 25 and expressed his sympathy for them. He also assured them of consideration of the demands keeping in view the resource constraints.

Later the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister continued the negotiations and had several rounds of talks with the representatives of the Parishad. The negotiations continued beyond midnight Sunday night. It was taken up by the Labour Minister on April 12.

The handout said, the Government had already accepted a number of demands of the Parishad. These include withdrawal of the Industrial Relations (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982 and the Martial Law Regulation No 19. The right of the labourers to resort to strike was restored.

The Government has also appointed a national wages and productivity commission to fix national minimum wages for all levels of labourers and determine wage structure. The Commission has started working on March 1.

The labourers in public sector industries were given a total of 30 per cent Dearness Allowance in three stages between July 1, 1982 to July 1, 1983, the decision to give 30 per cent D.A. on basic wage of labourers from January 1 last in private sectors was also announced.

Besides, the Government has also accepted in principle the consideration of other demands. These include a large number of demand including those on gratuity, the removal of discrimination in regard to allowances and the establishment of industrial courts.

The handout also referred to the demands on which the Government could not agree with the Parishad. These are:

Demand of repealing Industrial Relations Ordinance 1969 (Amendment of 1970) and all subsequent amendments. The Government could not take immediate decision in view of the opposition from both the public and private sector owners.

Regarding demand for minimum wage of Tk. 650/- the Government thinks that the national wage commission would make recommendation. Despite this, the Government, however, considered the demand to raise minimum basic wage from Tk 270/- to Tk 405/-. The existing basis minimum wage of industrial labourers is Tk 270/- and that of government employee is Tk 225/-.

Referring to the demand for Dearness Allowance for the labourers both in public and private sector concerns with retrospective effect from July 1 1982 the government thought it would put extra financial burden on the managements and thus hamper industrial growth.

The president, the handout pointed out, gave assurance to the representatives of the Parishad at different stages of the negotiations that the government would make sincere efforts to improve the economic conditions of the labourers in keeping with the conditions of the country.

The Prime Minister and the Labour Minister are carrying on the negotiations with the representatives of the Parishad and they would continue it to reach a proper solution.

The government thinks that if law and order situation deteriorates following strikes it would disturb overall stability in the country and disturb the transition to democracy. Nothing should be done to disturb the stability when the government and the political parties are sincerely trying to work out the transition to democracy.

The government expressed its regret at the strike called by the Parishad despite the sincere steps taken by the government.

CSO: 4600/1859

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW--Syed Nazmuddin Hashim, Minister without Portfolio, left Dhaka lastnight for London enroute to Moscow to take up his new ambassadorial assignment in the Soviet Union. Mr Hashim being a sitting minister will enjoy cabinet status as Bangladesh ambassador in Moscow. He will succeed Mr M R Ahmed who had retired at the end of last year after serving the ambassadorial job. Mr Hashim who was accompanied by his wife is expected to submit his credentials sometime next month. Mr. Hashim had served as Ambassador in Burma before he was inducted in the cabinet as Information and Broadcasting Minister months after the military regime came to power in 1982. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Apr 84 p 1]

STAND ON DISARMAMENT--Bangladesh has reiterated at the conference on disarmament in Geneva that the world has a common stake in the preservation of peace and a common responsibility to promote the cause of peace through contributing to the process of disarmament, reports BSS. Addressing the on-going disarmament conference Permanent Representative Mr. A. K. H. Morshed said we, for our part, are wholly committed to discharge our share of this responsibility both here in this forum and elsewhere'. He said Bangladesh is one of the countries which are taking active role in favour of disarmament and President Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad himself addressed the second special session of the United Nations on the disarmament two years back. Bangladesh has applied for membership on the disarmament committee. Mr Morshed told the Geneva meeting on April 12 that in attempts to analyse the underlying causes of the present situation certain linkages suggest themselves and have stimulated considerable debate and documentation. One of these linkages is that between disarmament and development. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 May 84 p 1]

IDA CREDIT--The International Development Association (IDA) will provide Bangladesh with a credit of SDR 40.2 million for a project designed to increase agricultural production through out the country. The credit will directly benefit 480,000 people. The farm employment will increase by about 30 per cent to reach 5.9 million workdays. IDA is the World Bank's affiliate for concessional lending. The project aims at expanding areas under high-yielding rice and wheat cultivation through improved drainage and irrigation. Increased flood control is expected to reduce crop losses. Demand for hired farm labour in flood control and drainage projects will provide employment opportunities for 39 000 landless families in the project area of about 225,000 acres.

The project includes about 30 sub-projects. Flood control and drainage projects will be carried out on 64,000 acres, drainage schemes on 78,000 acres, flood control on 59,000 acres and irrigation works on 24,000 acres. The project is expected to be completed in five years at a cost of dollar 53 million. The Government will contribute dollar 11 million. The UNDP will support the technical assistance and training aspects with a grant of about dollar two million. The IDA credit is for 50 years including ten years grace period. It carries no interest but has small annual charges. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 May 84 pp 1, 14]

AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN--Bangladesh Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Abul Ahsan presented his credentials to President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq at a simple but impressive ceremony at Rawalpindi on Saturday, reports BSS. Earlier Mr. Ahsan was ceremonially escorted from his residence by the Chief of Protocol. He was taken in a state coach up to the saluting dias. The national anthems of Bangladesh and Pakistan were played. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan President's bodyguards presented him a Guard of Honour which he later inspected. During discussions Ambassador Ahsan conveyed the warm greetings of the Bangladesh President to President Ziaul Haq and the best wishes of the people of Bangladesh for the people of Pakistan. The Pakistani President reciprocated the sentiments and said that the government and the people of Pakistan wished to have the best of relations with the closest cooperation with Bangladesh in all fields. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 May 84 p 10]

DPRK COLLABORATION--Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have decided to further collaborate in the fields of basic (primary) education and the development of vocational and technical education, says BSS. The visiting DPRK Chairman on Educational Commission Mr. Choi Tae Bok and Education Minister Dr. A. Majeed Khan during their formal talks Wednesday discussed the progress of cultural agreement between the two countries and means of expanding cooperation in the field of education and culture. Another report adds: The visiting four member delegation of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) headed by Mr. Choi Tae Bok, Chairman of the Educational Commission of DPRK called on DCMLA and Minister for Communications Rear Admiral M. A. Khan at CMLA's secretariat Wednesday. They discussed matters of mutual interest. Admiral Khan wished people of DPRK continued progress and prosperity and hoped that in coming days relationship between the two countries would further grow in educational, cultural and trade fields in the interest of the peoples of two countries. The visiting DPRK Chairman on Educational Commission, Mr. Choi Tae Bok, called on the DCMLA and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Air-Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud at his office on Wednesday. According to an official source, they exchanged views on the education policy of the two countries. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 May 84 p 3]

AMBASSADOR TO PHILIPPINES--MANILA, Apr. 29:--Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Philippines Mr. Harun-ur Rashid presented his credentials to President Marcos at a simple but impressive ceremony at the presidential Malacanang palace in Manila on Thursday reports B.S.S. Expressing the need for economic, political and social development, between the republic of Philippines and the people's

republic of Bangladesh President Marcos stated that it was imperative for the two countries to seek closer co-operation not only on bilateral level but on multilateral level as well. President Marcos conveyed his warmest greetings to President Lt General H M Ershad and best wishes to the people of Bangladesh. Ambassador Harun-ur Rashid thanked President Marcos for his expression of goodwill for the Government and the people of Bangladesh and conveyed the warm greetings of President Ershad the Government and the people of Bangladesh to President Marcos, the Government and the people of the republic of the Philippines. Later Ambassador Rashid laid wreaths at a separate ceremony to the rizal monument and also at the tomb of unknown soldiers in Manila. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Apr 84 p 4]

PRC AGRICULTURAL AID--VIENNA, May 2: China has offered 1,679,000 dollars for the setting up of an agro-industrial complex in Bangladesh the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) said here Monday, reports IINA. The UNIDO in a newsletter said that China has already made available the funds to the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the UN Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF) to acquire the Chinese equipment and set up the plant in Dhaka. The agro-industrial complex is due to be put into operation in 1985. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 May 84 p 8]

BUNP-JANADAL MERGER--Chairman and General Secretary of Bangladesh United Nationalist Party Mr. Habibul Huq Khan Benu and Mr Habibur Rahman respectively announced the dissolution of party and joining the Janadal yesterday, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 May 84 p 8]

BANGLADESH-CHINA FRIENDSHIP--The annual general meeting of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Association was held on Thursday with Mr Mirza Golam Hafiz, president of the association in the chair, reports BSS. The meeting, held at the Shishu Academy was addressed, among others, by Mr Kamrul Islam, Mr Serajul Hussain Khan Mr Abdul Khaleque, Mr Shamsul Huda (Chittagong) Mr Ali Ashraf and Mr Nazmul Haque Nantu. The speakers stressed the need for friendship with China to strengthen national independence and sovereignty of the country and said it would also serve the world peace. They expressed grave concern at the recent border incursions by India. The meeting in a resolution urged the government to withdraw restrictions on the formation of subordinate committees of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Association in different districts and other areas of the country. The annual report and the statement of accounts submitted by the Secretary-General of the association, Mr. Shamsul Alam Sikder were accepted by the meeting. The meeting was rounded off with a cultural function. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 May 84 p 3]

AMBASSADOR TO PDRY--Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mr. Mohammad Mohsin concurrently accredited to the People's Democratic republic of Yemen presented his credential to Mr. Ali Nasser Muhammad Secretary General of the Central Committee. Chairman of People's Supreme Assembly Presidium and Prime Minister, reports BSS. After presenting the credentials the ambassador conveyed fraternal greetings of Lt General H M Ershad, President and CMLA, the people and the government of Bangladesh to Mr Ali Nasser Mohammad, his government and the people of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. President Ali Nasser Muhammad also requested the ambassador to convey his greetings and that of his

government to President Lt. General H M Ershad. The South Yemeni President also recalled the traditional ties and stressed the importance of forging closer relations between the two countries on bilateral and international issues. The Foreign Minister of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Dhali and senior officials of the ministry were present on the occasion. Earlier, the ambassador called on the South Yemeni Foreign Minister and had exclusive discussion with him on matters of mutual interest and areas of further cooperation between the two countries. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 May 84 p 3]

CSO: 4600/1876

HINDU ANALYST TELLS EXPECTATIONS FROM BUSH VISIT

Reassurance Expected

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 29. The importance that India is attaching to the forthcoming visit of the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, is evident from the fact that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is planning to have three rounds of private talks with him on various issues, impinging on Indo-American relations.

She will be hosting what is described as a strictly family luncheon in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Bush at which the only others will be Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his wife.

The objective is to impart a personal and informal touch to Mr. Bush's visit, without letting Indo-American differences, which would be aired during the formal talks with him, mar the spirit and warmth of the occasion.

Interested in fresh look: The briefs for these discussions with Mr. Bush are being prepared on the assumption that Indo-American relations, which have lately been at a particularly low ebb, cannot get any worse even if there is not much scope for a marked improvement before the two countries go to the polls later this year. It is precisely for this reason that both New Delhi and Washington are equally interested in taking a fresh look at their problems in the belief that the differences are not irreconcilable and could be narrowed down through a display of some flexibility by both sides.

A strange feature of this strained relationship is that Mrs. Gandhi was able to make a good impression on the President, Mr. Ronald Reagan all the three times the two met in the last three years — first at Cancun in 1981, during her official visit to Washington in 1982 and then last year at the United Nations. It is not generally known that after his very first meeting at Cancun, Mr. Reagan is reported to have remarked at a private briefing he gave to some senior American journalists that he was pleasantly surprised to find her a very charming person, certainly not the ogre he was given to believe by officialdom in Washington.

But unfortunately the two have not been able to establish a good official rapport despite their agreeable impressions of each other at the personal level. As the second figure in the Reagan administration and also the most

sophisticated one amongst the President's men, Mr. Bush can certainly play a role, at least in removing some of the irritants in Indo-American relations, even if the differences cannot be reconciled through one visit.

Keen on candid talk: Both Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Bush are reported to be equally keen on talking candidly about what has been dividing instead of uniting the two countries with all their shared traditions, in the face of their diametrically opposite approaches to many international and regional issues affecting their bilateral relations. The main task of Mr. Bush will be to dispel the feeling, to the extent possible in the present circumstances, that the U.S. is not totally indifferent or insensitive to India's concerns about the impact of American policies in the region.

The Prime Minister does not expect the U.S. to reverse its policies suddenly and stop arming Pakistan, but she wants the Reagan administration to realise that American interests in the area would be better served by a more balanced approach and not through a pro-Pakistani tilt which creates, for neighbouring countries like India, serious security problems.

Nuclear knowhow for Pak: Mr. Bush will probably come with some sort of personal message from Mr. Reagan, as the Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz, did last year, assuring Mrs. Gandhi that the U.S. was genuinely interested in the integrity and security of India and that it would not do anything to harm it. He is likely to convey an assurance that adequate steps will be taken to prevent the transfer of nuclear technology by China to Pakistan, despite the new cooperation agreement signed during his Beijing visit.

But the main task of Mr. Bush would be to reassure India much more at the psychological than political level that the U.S. has nothing to gain by attempting to destabilise India in the context of the frequent allegations made of foreign involvement in the country's internal problems. And the main credentials of Mr. Bush for this admittedly delicate diplomatic mission are that he is a happy choice and better suited than any of the other men in the Reagan administration.

Head-of-Government Status

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 May 84 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 9. The Centre is stretching protocol to accord a ceremonial welcome to the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, by giving him the status of a head of Government, when he arrives in Delhi on Saturday on a four-day visit.

There have been occasions in the past when Crown Princess have been given this special treatment, but, ordinarily, Vice-Presidents do not receive ceremonial welcome with guards of honour and state drives to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Significant: The last U.S. Vice-President to pay an official visit to India was the late Hubert Humphrey in 1966, although two U.S. Presidents, Mr. Richard Nixon and Mr. Jimmy Carter, had been to India since that time. But what is significant in this context is that Humphrey did not get a ceremonial reception on that occasion.

A visiting head of State is received by the President and given a guard of honour by a contingent of 150 men drawn from the three services, along with a 19-gun salute. A head of Government, who is received by the Prime Minister, gets a guard of honour by only 100 men without any gun salute. The two are, however, entitled to a state drive from the airport along a ceremonial route to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The U.S. Vice President will be received by his Indian counter-part, Mr. M. Hidayatullah, and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, will also be present at the airport to greet him. After inspecting the guard of honour, Mr. Bush will drive with Mr. Hidayatullah in a motorcade to Rashtrapati Bhavan, where another military contingent will present arms before he and his wife are conducted to the main guest suite.

Private dinner: The ceremonial part of his visit will end at this point and the political aspects of it will start receiving due prominence. The Vice-President will host the state banquet in his honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday night and the Prime Minister will give the customary luncheon on Monday, at Hyderabad House. But she is giving, in addition, a private dinner at her residence the same day at which only Mr. and Mrs. Bush will be present along with herself and her son to have an informal political conversation in the privacy of her home.

The official programme includes a two-hour long meeting with Mrs. Gandhi on Monday morning without any aides, unless they decide to call in their senior advisers at some point to join the discussion. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Murphy, the Vice-President's Chief of Staff, Admiral Daniel Murphy, and other American officials accompanying him will have separate discussions at appropriate levels with Indian officials on various aspects of Indo-U.S. relations.

Candid talk: The main purpose of Mr. Bush's visit is to have a candid talk with Mrs. Gandhi on Indo-American differences and allay the Indian misgivings about U.S. policies to the extent possible in the present circumstances. He will try to assure her that the U.S. has nothing to gain by attempting to weaken India and destabilise it by encouraging internal dissensions or posing security problems by arming Pakistan.

There will be the customary rhetorical references to the shared objectives of the two greatest democracies of the world, but nobody expects any major departures in the policies of either side as a result of Mr. Bush's visit, despite the mutual desire for an improvement of relations. The main accent, therefore, will be on removing some of the misconceptions about each other which have been causing more harm than any major conflicts of interest.

The U.S. Vice-President is expected to brief Mrs. Gandhi on the outcome of the President, Mr. Reagan's China visit, especially the implications of the nuclear agreement with it. But Mrs. Gandhi will be more keen on having his views on Pakistan's determined bid to acquire nuclear capability at any cost. She will certainly ask him what the U.S. proposed to do to forestall this grave development.

Regional security: The U.S. knows quite well that its policy of arming Pakistan has obliged India to move closer to the Soviet Union, but the policy-makers in Washington do not subscribe to the theory that India has in the process become a Soviet client State. It does not make much sense for the U.S. to alienate India completely by overplaying the Pakistani card and ignoring its legitimate security concerns and political interests in the region.

And yet, the Reagan administration has done precious little to improve Indo-American relations. The Bush visit is certainly intended to end the current drift, by removing some of the misapprehensions and eliminating recurring irritations, but it is not expected to go very far in opening up a new era of mutually beneficial relations.

CSO: 4600/1855

PAPERS REPORT ON MEETING OF CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL

Resolution, Personnel Changes

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 28.—The political line followed by the official leadership of the CPI to have alliances and adjustments with all political parties, excluding the BJP, to replace Mrs Gandhi's Congress(I) Government at the Centre was reversed by the party's National Council at its meetings between April 22 and 25 here.

Yet another formulation of the official leadership of not treating as repugnant the alliances and adjustments of the political parties with the BJP was considered by the National Council as a clear deviation from the political resolution adopted by the 12th congress of the party held at Varanasi, in March, 1982.

The Varanasi resolution had unequivocally laid down that the CPI would never work towards the replacement of Mrs Gandhi's Government at the Centre by other bourgeois and Rightist parties.

The political resolution adopted by the National Council, the highest policy-making body of the CPI between two congresses of the party here last week, arrived at the conclusion that the United Front of the six parties, led by the Janata — president, Mr Chandra-shekhar, had collapsed. The Lok

Dal has aligned with the "rightist BJP". The CPI would have nothing to do with the two sets of alliances.

The important formulations of the National Council resolution are that "a viable alternative" to the Congress(I) "with Left and democratic orientation has not emerged... we do not want a Rightist alternative. The Left and democratic alternative we are working for is yet to emerge. Hence, we would lend support to a combination which takes anti-imperialist position and continues our country's progressive foreign policy, and does not include such pro-imperialist communal parties as the BJP.

"The non-Left parties of the Opposition are trying various permutations and combinations keeping in mind the next Lok Sabha elections". In this situation, the CPI should put forth a minimum programme and make efforts so that the CPI and the CPI(M) and other Left parties together put forward an agreed minimum programme as the political basis for the unity of Left and democratic forces.

Evidently, the National Council brought home to the official leadership that Mrs Gandhi is anti-USA, follows the progressive foreign policy of non-alignment and works for world peace and is opposed to

the BJP and other "pro-imperialist communal parties".

This fresh position opens the doors for the CPI to support Mrs Gandhi's opposition to the USA and its allies.

Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, general secretary of the CPI, who briefed reporters on the outcome of the National Council meetings, said the central executive committee had dismissed Mr R. K. Garg from the party membership.

The committee concluded that the period of suspension that Mr Garg had undergone had not helped to discipline him in any way. Mr Garg continued to engage in anti-party activities, including issuing Press statements and publicly expressing views contrary to the positions taken by the party. Therefore, Mr Garg's request for renewal of party membership was turned down and his name struck off the rolls of the CPI.

Meanwhile, the National Committee accepted the resignation of Mr M. N. Govindan Nair on health grounds from the central secretariat and the central executive committee and elected in his place Mr N. E. Balram. The Council also elected Mr P. K. Vasudevan Nair and Mr Ram Avtar Sharma (secretary of the Bihar unit) to the central executive committee.

Document Sums Up Conclusions

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 29. Despite an assertive bid by dissident sections, the CPI sticks to its resolve to work for an alternative to the Congress (I). The party, however, hastens to add that it is "not for any kind of alternative but only a left and democratic alternative which can meet the needs of the situation."

The CPI general secretary, Mr. Rajeswara Rao, on Saturday released a clarified document summing up the conclusions of this week's meeting of the national council. Mr. Rao made it clear that the CPI would not accept the Soviet communist party's plea for support to Mrs. Gandhi, saying "We have our own brains to think."

While noting that a viable alternative with left and democratic orientation had not yet emerged, the CPI conceded that this created confusion among the masses, which helped the Congress (I). The party's approach was spelled out thus: "We do not want a rightist alternative. The left and democratic alternative we are working for is yet to emerge. Hence we would lend support to a combination which takes anti-imperialist positions and continues our country's progressive foreign policy, does not include pro-imperialist communal parties like the BJP, and takes popular measures for solving the urgent problems of our people."

Permutations and combinations: The non-left parties of the opposition, it noted, were trying various permutations and combinations, keeping in mind the next Lok Sabha elections. The CPI, it said, would try to work for left and democratic unity on the basis of an agreed minimum programme.

There were other pointers that the party had not resiled from the previous anti-Mrs. Gandhi line--approval of the decisions of the Opposition conclaves at Calcutta and Srinagar, support to the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, against the toppling bid by Mrs. Gandhi's Government (despite the State unit secretary's reference to the "nefarious activities" of Dr. Abdullah in bringing together communal elements in the state) and the charge of drift against the Centre on the Punjab problem. Equally important was the central committee's decision to remove from membership Mr. G. M. Garg, a known advocate of a soft line towards Mrs. Gandhi.

Romesh Chandra's intervention: A highlight of the party discussions was a powerful intervention by the World Peace Council chairman Mr. Romesh Chandra, to bring out the linkage between the imperialists' thrust against non-aligned countries and the internal threats to the security of the country. Mr. Romesh Chandra was critical of the recent speeches of the CPI(M) general secretary, Mr. E. M. S. Nambuthiripad, favouring an anti-imperialist movement by the parties opposed to Mrs. Gandhi. Mr. Romesh Chandra drew attention to the consequences for India of such developments as the visit of a Bhutanese delegation to Beijing and the Chinese activities in Nepal.

On Punjab, the CPI council called for an immediate political solution on the basis of the formula worked out by the Opposition parties in June last year. According to Mr. Rajeswara Rao, the CPI would not mind the Congress (I) joining the all-party peace marches in Punjab.

PAPERS REPORT GANDHI REMARKS TO SCIENTIFIC PANEL

G. K. Reddy Report

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 29:

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has said that India will be able to launch a geo-synchronous space satellite without any outside help by the end of this decade.

Addressing a meeting of the parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the scientific department, she said the entire country was proud of the recent Indo-Soviet joint space flight, but stressed that in applauding this great achievement the people should not lose sight of the progress made by India's own space programmes.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was working on Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicles (ASLV) as a follow-up to the Rohini series, to develop its own capacity for launching an indigenous satellite without outside assistance.

An Indian remote sensing satellite would be launched in 1986 from the Soviet Union. A Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle would be put into orbit in 1988 from the Sriharikota launching site.

The INSAT 1C was scheduled to be launched from the U.S. in 1986 and INSAT-II in 1988-89, before India develops its own rockets for launching more advanced satellites later on for the development of its space programme. These are great achievements and the country could be very proud of the rapid strides by its space scientists.

The Committee also discussed the progress and problems of the atomic energy programme. A reference was made to the third Indian Antarctic expedition which established a permanent research station. There was a mention of Pakistan's attempts to develop a nuclear bomb and the reported assistance given by China.

The members of the Consultative Committee had raised several questions about the policy of permitting private sector companies to manufacture telecommunications equipment, the progress made by the public sector enterprises in modernising telephone services for improving their performance, the domestic manufacture of colour TV sets and other developments in the electronic industry, especially in the field of micro chips, computers and office automation.

Environment problems: The problems of environment were also referred to at this meeting with a detailed exposition of the efforts under way to encourage afforestation to redress the great ecological damage done by large-scale deforestation. There was also a mention of the steps that needed to be taken to preserve plant species and develop different varieties for various uses. And it was stressed that enough attention would be paid to the preservation of wildlife.

Species endangered: The Consultative Committee was told due to human interference, roughly one species of plants was becoming extinct every day on India and, in the absence of remedial action, about one million species would be lost by the turn of the century. In addition, about 10 per cent of all plants in India were endangered because of over-exploitation, especially through the activities of some multinational companies which were collecting plant material from India on an intensive scale.

The Government was doing whatever was possible to save plant life by growing many of the threatened species in botanical gardens and similar steps were being taken to protect rare animal species by preserving them in zoological parks, besides intensifying the campaign for preservation of wildlife.

More social forestry: The Prime Minister observed that, for maintaining ecological balance, farmers should be encouraged to take up social forestry, but she cautioned against using good crop yielding lands for growing eucalyptus trees.

TIMES Correspondent's Report

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Apr 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 28. INDIA hopes to achieve the capability of launching geo-synchronous satellites by the end of this decade, the parliamentary consultative committee for scientific department was told today.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, dwelt at length on Indian space programme and said while the Indo-Soviet joint space mission was noteworthy, one should not lose sight of the achievements of the indigenous space programme.

The Prime Minister said space programmes now would hasten the transition from competence to building operational systems and would help achieve self-reliance in spacecraft and launch vehicles.

ASLV in Seventh Plan

The seventh plan envisaged the launching of augmented satellite launch vehicle (ASLV) from Sriharikota in 1985, orbiting of Indian remote sensing satellite from the Soviet Union in 1986, and the first launch of polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) from Sriharikota in 1988.

The launch of INSAT-IC from the U.S. was scheduled in 1986 and the launch of the first INSAT-II (proto-INSAT) satellite in 1988-89.

Questions related to atomic energy did not figure prominently at the meeting.

In reply to a question, the Prime Minister said some neighbouring countries were poaching in India's exclusive economic zone and exploiting India's marine resources. She suggested that punishment for such illegal activity should be more deterrent.

The Prime Minister wanted more emphasis to be placed on social forestry for preserving the ecological balance. She referred to the danger of diverting agricultural land for growing eucalyptus. Farmers should grow some other nutritional rice varieties instead of concentrating on basmati.

In India, one species of plants was becoming extinct every day because of human interference, the committee was told. It was stated that about ten per cent of our plants were endangered because of overexploitation, especially by multinational companies who were collecting plant material from India on an intensive scale.

The members were informed that the third Indian Antarctic expedition had achieved its main objective by setting up a permanent research station in Antarctica in record time. Data collected by the expedition was being analysed. A 12-member team had been left behind to man the research station.

In the area of electronics, the members asked about progress in indigenous manufacture of colour TV. It was stated that many reputed Indian companies were offering colour TV sets for Rs. 5,100 to 5,500, exclusive of local taxes. The prices are expected to come down further as a result of liberal licensing policy.

Selective Basis

The members were told that the private sector had been permitted on a selective basis to enter the field of telecommunications. No discrimination would be made between the private and public sectors. However, centralised purchase of technology would be always desirable.

With regard to progress of the semi-conductor complex in Chandigarh, it was stated that 5-micron LSI technology had been established and in about eight months 3-micron process technology would be established.

It was proposed to set up a chip design centre in the Silicon valley in California where a large number of Indians were working in this field. This will make the progress in large-scale integrated circuits rapid.

CSO: 4600/1841

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REVIEWS TRADE WITH PRC

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 29 (PTI). THE bilateral trade between India and China in the last three years has contracted sharply and trade deficit also moved increasingly against India, according to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerces and Industry (FICCI).

In a paper detailing the Indo-China bilateral economic and trade relations, the federation said the two-way trade which stood at Rs. 39.74 crores in 1979-80 rose sharply to Rs. 105.61 crores in 1980-81 and further increased to Rs. 130.94 crores in 1981-82. But since then, it declined steeply to Rs. 117.18 crores in 1982-83 and in the first six months of 1983-84 (April-September) was only Rs. 27.84 crores.

The paper prepared on the occasion of the visit of the FICCI delegation to China from May 1 to 12 noted that historically the "Sino-Indian trade relations have moved parallel to their political relations."

The trade gap which was in India's favour till 1979-80, has gone in favour of China then. The balance in favour of India in 1978-79 was Rs. 23.08 crores and it narrowed down to Rs. 1.92 crores in 1979-80.

However, China recorded a favourable trade balance of Rs. 58.35 crores in 1980-81, Rs. 25.58 crores in 1981-82 and Rs. 92.85 crores in 1982-83.

In the first six months (April-September) of 1983-84, while Indian exports were of a meagre Rs. 33 lakhs, imports from China were as high as Rs 27.51 crores, thus leaving a trade deficit of Rs. 28.18 crores on India's account.

According to the federation, in 1954 India and China concluded a trade agreement which remained in force through extensions till December, 1959. It was not renewed thereafter. However, the bilateral trade came to a stop in 1962 and was resumed only in 1977. Since then the growth of bilateral trade has not acquired the size or pattern that reflected the potentials in the two countries.

The principal items exported by India to China include cotton, crude vegetable materials, iron and steel, sugar, tobacco manufactures and barley, India's

import list from China include silk, chemicals and related products, zinc, non-ferrous metals and certain other miscellaneous items.

The FICCI delegation to China headed by the federation president, Mr. Ramkrishna Bajaj, is expected to explore ways of expanding the bilateral trade and identify opportunities for technology transfer.

During its stay the delegation will visit Guanghou, Hangshou, Shanghai and Beijing. Apart from the visit to Canton fair in Guanghou, the delegation will have meetings with China council for promotion of international trade and other foreign trade bodies.

According to FICCI, in view of China's drive for rapid introduction of modern technology in agricultural and industrial fields, especially in the context of a labour-intensive technology framework, the small-scale sector is expected to continue to play an important role in the China's industrial progress. This could naturally make China an important market for countries like India for supplying intermediate technology, the federation noted.

Some of the potential areas for joint ventures, including transfer of technology from India, identified included energy, light machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, agriculture, textiles, hotels, power generation projects, tanning technology glass manufacture and automobiles.

CSO: 4600/1837

CPI-M LEADER BRIEFED ON CHINA VISITS PROSPECTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 May 84 p 1

[Article by Ashis Barman]

[Text] Calcutta, May 1--Chief Minister Jyoti Basu is scheduled to begin tomorrow his two-week visit to China at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. With CPI-M's policy on the India-China border dispute still undefined. Mr Basu's visit may prove to be a tricky one should China try to make political capital out of it.

A CPI-M leader told Patriot that in order to embarrass India, China may possibly come to some "settlement" with Bhutan, whom it is currently wooing, with regard to eight Bhutanese villages under its occupation for the past three decades. In that event, the Chinese may renew with vigour their "claim" on Arunachal Pradesh, which adjoins Bhutan. Such a situation would "deeply disturb" the CPI-M not only due to Tripura's vulnerable proximity to the concerned area, but also because it would force the CPI-M to openly defend the Indian position on the entire Sino-Indian border issue.

CPI-M sources say that the party politbureau has briefed Mr Basu that should any intricate questions regarding territorial sovereignty crop up during his informal discussions with the Chinese, he should come out sharp and clear against any such gambit, as the CPI-M had done against China and the local Naxalites between 1967 and 1969.

The party-to-party relations between the CPI-M and the Chinese party were snapped in 1967. These were officially restored in 1983. The break had taken place when the CPI-M was branded as "neo-revisionist imperialist lackey" by the Chinese Maoists and their local variants, the Naxalites. In 1967-68, Mr Basu, along with Mr P Sundarayya, the then CPI-M general secretary, and late Mr Harekrishna Konar, the State party leader, were often denounced by Beijing in harshest of terms. Evidently, the changed Chinese posture is indicated by the restoration of the inter-party ties and the repeated invitations to Mr Basu and other top CPI-M leaders.

CSO: 4600/1850

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT'S ARGENTINA VISIT

Address to Parliament

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Apr 84 p 9

[Article by Kirit Ghaumik]

[Text] BUENOS AIRES, April 27. THE President, Mr. Zail Singh, today, hailed Argentina's return to democracy after years of military rule and pledged that India would stand by this republic "in this battle of right against wrong, of good against evil, of the weak against the strong."

The President was addressing a joint session of the National Congress (Parliament) of Argentina, the first Indian President to do so and the first foreign head of state to be given the unique privilege since the swearing-in of the elected president of the republic, Dr. Raul Alfonsin, on December 10 last.

Mr. Zail Singh said he was bringing to the August House the greetings of the "largest democracy of the world" as the representative of 700 million people.

Describing Argentina as a "sister republic on the other side of the globe," the President said that despite geographical distance, "a commonality of ideals, hopes and aspirations binds us together as members of one human family."

Ancient Links

He noted the Argentine people's valiant struggle against oppressive forces and pointed out that the Indian people achieved independence after a long and arduous struggle. He said India deeply admired what the new president of the republic called Argentina's "eternal commitment to the principles of liberty and justice, and the valiant defence of these principles ever since."

Mr. Zail Singh saw ancient links--since the dawn of history--in the name "Ushuaia", the capital of the celebrated province of Tierra Del Fuego. The name stands for "the land of the morning sun," and pointed out that in Sanskrit the word "usha" means "dawn".

Tracing history down to the early part of the current century, he said: "I must thank your great country for having given shelter to freedom loving Indians who left India as a protest against British rule. While most of them settled in the U.S. and Canada, we have a shining example of collaboration between our two countries with almost 100 families of Indian origin settling and prospering in the provinces of Salta, Tucuman and Jujuy."

In the present time, he said, another bond between the two countries was the membership of the non-aligned movement and the United Nations.

"Let our two countries stand together in the forefront of this struggle for peace, development and disarmament."

In recent years industrial and trade delegations of the two countries had exchanged visits. There was unlimited scope for the expansion of trade, development of joint country projects, transfer of technology and arrangements for consultancy services.

India's Growth

Recounting the Herculean task faced by a vast country like India, with one-sixth of humanity living in it and with its cultural diversity and economic disparity, in accomplishign its socio-economic objectives, Mr. Zail Singh pointed out that on the eve of independence, the country had a rudimentary industrial base and chronic food shortages. Today, India was the fourth largest producer of food in the world and was very near self-sufficiency. It was also one of the top ten industrial nations in the world.

India, he pointed out, could take reasonable pride in the fact that even in years of world recession it was able to maintain a positive rate of growth.

Argentina and India had a trade agreement and a joint commission to review the implementation of the agreement. The strengthening of commercial and economic links between the two countries, supported scientific and technical co-operation, would provide the underpinning for the excellent political relations that existed.

Mr. Zail Singh said what made dissidence and opposition in democracy a welcome national factor was that debate and dialogue, free and frank exchange of ideas and views took the place of the sword and gunfire.

"We, therefore, heartily welcome Argentina back into the fold of democracy and wish your endeavours every success. May your endeavours in this house be a beacon of light to your entire region and the world, and may you thrive as a bastion of freedom and democracy for ever."

Remarks in Cancun

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Apr 84 p 5

[Article by Somdeb Das Gupta]

[Text] CANCUN, April 27.--The President, Mr Zail Singh, who arrived here yesterday at the end of his State visit to Mexico, en route to Argentina, said on the eve of his departure from Mexico City that he was eminently satisfied with his meetings with the Mexican President.

Senior Indian officials accompanying Mr Zail Singh described the visit as an unqualified success. However, if the Indian President's visit was expected to add to the keenness on the part of Mexico to identify itself more closely with the non-aligned movement there is some room for doubt as to the furtherance of this objective.

Much that was discussed between Mr Zail Singh and Mr Miguel de la Madrid suggested a common line of thinking, notably on detente, disarmament, mutual cooperation and, above all, firm opposition to external interference in the internal affairs of their countries.

The fact that Mexico was vociferous in its criticism of Washington following the U.S. invasion of Granada and, more recently, the mining of the Nicaragua coast, appeared to add considerable substance to the impression. Yet, the Mexicans said nothing to suggest that they wanted to become a full-fledged member of NAM rather than continue their present observer status.

The unhappy fact is that, even as the Mexican Government is seeking to identify itself more than ever before with issues in Latin America in general, and Central America in particular, its economic dependence on the USA is far too crucial to allow it to be unmindful of American interests.

But the Mexican initiative in extending substantial financial assistance to Argentina last month appeared to be meant to bail out the American banks which otherwise would have suffered heavy losses. Although all this was done at the instance of Washington, the gesture was portrayed as an expression of Latin American solidarity.

But in spite of these exercises in acquiring a Latin American "image" the Mexican President is quite obviously wary of taking a consistently anti-U.S. posture which full membership of NAM might come to imply.

Viewed in this context, the Indian President's visit has been a success in so far as it has highlighted the goodwill between the two countries and the eagerness to cooperate in various fields, economic and cultural matters in particular. But the fundamental difference in foreign policy issues appears to remain--if not in principle, then at least in articulation and, especially, effective implementation.

However, the statement issued by the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Mr Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, after Mr Zail Singh left Mexico City on his way to Argentina, sought to minimize the importance of the ambiguities which remain.

Mr Amor described the fact of India being the chairman of NAM, and Mexico being that of the Group of 77, as "a coincidence" which permits both the countries to strive towards "the realization of great, common goals". The actual implications of this "coincidence" remain to be seen--both in terms of the Latin American and the wider international context.

Visit Ends, Agreements Signed

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Article by Kirit Bhaumik]

[Text] BUENOS AIRES, April 29. THE President, Mr. Zail Singh, assured India's total support for Argentina's democratic set-up established after over 50 years of oppressive military rule at the first round of talks he had with President Raal Al Onsin yesterday morning.

The President, Mr. Zail Singh today concluded his four-day state visit to Argentina on a highly successful note, with the two countries formalising an agreement on direct shipping lines and giving finishing touches to more agreements on science and technology and economic co-operation.

While the shipment between Buenos Aires and Cocin would commence in the next few months, the two new agreements on 'science and technology and economic co-operation would be signed before the Argentinian President Dr. Raul Alfonsin's in January next. Mr. Alfonsin will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

Briefing newsmen, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, secretary in the external affairs ministry, said both the sides had agreed to explore the possibilities of mutually beneficial areas of co-operation in trade, commerce, science and technology.

The joint commission meeting in New Delhi in September this year would review the progress made in achieving these objectives.

The efforts of the democratic government of Dr. Alfonsin to diversify its international links, as a measure to be evolve an independent foreign policy, are what create the potential for increasing trade between India and its country.

The sincerity of Argentina to create a stable foundation for trade between the two countries is evident from the fact that Dr. Alfonsin's government is making a serious effort to find items for import from India. Argentina at present enjoys a favourable trade balance. Trade on a permanent footing can be established by bridging the gap.

Argentina at present is groaning under external debts totalling a whopping 44 billion dollars. A serious effort to increase trade with India on the part of Argentina can be expected after it succeeds in obtaining assistance from international financial institutions like the IMF in the next few months.

Financial Aid

Besides increasing trade with third world countries, Argentina, despite its heavy debt burden is trying to financially assist other countries of the region to be able to resist outside interference.

Recently, it is reported, Buenos Aires has committed a dollar 45 million dollar credit to Nicaragua.

A pattern of interdependence is apparently growing in this region among the democratic governments. While Argentina is assisting Nicaragua, Mexico in turn is providing financial aid to Argentina to enable its banks to overcome its present problems.

All these developments are seen by India as to augur well for the strengthening of the non-aligned movement in the western hemisphere.

Argentina wants to be what is described as a "dynamic" member of the non-aligned movement. President Alfonsín is in regular touch with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi on measures to promote third world co-operation.

India's current effort to forge closer links with Latin America largely depends on the success of the democratic experiment in this country.

India's chairing the non-alignment movement, has a special interest in the success of the democratic experiment here because Dr. Alfonsín's government has already shown that only a government dependent of popular support in this part of the world is capable of striking out an independent foreign policy.

Besides, its success is bound to have a profound impact on all the countries of the region struggling to throw off their military yokes. Argentina is the first country to achieve success in this regard. Premature demise of its civilian rule will be a disastrous setback for the entire region.

CSO: 4600/1837

GANDHI LETTER DENIES ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JANATA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 25. IF opposition members yesterday took umbrage at some observations reportedly made by the PPrime Minister, today the manner in which she sought to deny those reports provoked protests in the Lok Sabha.

The speaker, Mr. Balram Jakhar, read out to the house after taking its consent a letter from Mrs. Gandhi saying inter alia "nowhere have I spoken of any recruitment of criminals and communalists to the intelligence forces of Punjab during the Akali-Janata regime."

As soon as the speaker completed reading that letter, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee and other members of the opposition rose to say that the Prime Minister should have come to the house and made the statement.

The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Buta Singh, said the very fact that she had preferred to write to contradict a baseless press report showed that the Prime Minister expressed full respect and courtesy to the house.

This explanation did not calm the frayed tempers of the opposition and several among them continued to voice their protests.

The Letter

The letter read: "I am astonished to learn of the remarks attributed to me in some newspapers and quoted by some Hon. members regarding our intelligence agencies. I made several remarks during my brief halt at the Chandigarh airport, none of them disparaging to our police or other services.

"I did say that the Janata party before coming to power had convinced themselves that I was using the intelligence services for party purposes. There was not and is not any truth in this.

But because of this belief, the Janata party government appointed a committee to examine this question. Due to this, these institutions suffered, and there was demoralisation. A certain amount of cateism also crept in. Nowhere have I spoken of any recruitment of criminals and communalists to the intelligence forces of Punjab during the Akali-Janata regime.

"I also said that it is not fair to make general criticism of the Punjab police or other such services merely because a few individuals may not have acted wisely. I do realise that the Punjab police, as indeed the Central armed forces, have a difficult task.

Change in Position

"Quite separately, I spoke of anti-social elements and Naxalites taking advantage of the disturbed situation.

"I am writing this to set the record straight as some newspapers have misquoted me...."

In response to opposition protest, the speaker reminded the members that he had taken their consent to read out the letter.

"This (letter) is a bad precedent," Prof Satyasadhan Chakraborty (CPM) said, while Mr. Vajpayee told the speaker: "This should not be allowed in future."

Otherwise, zero hour saw a change of situation with Congress members making noisy demand and the opposition counselling restraint and order.

This was in relation to loud demands by Mr. K. Lakkappa, and Mr. K. K. Tiwari, who normally could make themselves heard without the aid of a mike. They were asking for a discussion on developments in Kashmir and the role of the Kashmir Liberation Front.

An apparently bemused speaker, after watching the verbal duel between Mr. Tiwari and the National Conference member, Mr. Saifuddin Soz, thought that enough was enough and asked the members to resume their seats.

He said the issue related to law and order, a state subject. Besides, he had to adhere to the rules laid down by the house.

Then it was the turn of Mr. Somnath Chatterjee (CPM) who, in his usual measured yet eloquent tone sought to raise an issue arising from a supreme court judgment.

When the speaker interrupted him saying "we don't discuss supreme court judgment," the lawyer member pointed out that the supreme court had held the Central government guilty of contempt.

The judgment, delivered on April 23, related to the habeas corpus petition filed by the wives of two persons in Manipur missing since last November. The judgment awarded payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the wives.

The speaker said he would look into it.

COURT CONFIRMS GANDHI RIGHT TO INHERIT FROM SANJAY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 May 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 10 (PTI). THE Delhi high court today ruled that Sanjay Gandhi was a Hindu and hence his mother, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is entitled to a share of his property under the Hindu Succession Act.

Sanjay Gandhi was a Hindu because one of his parents, namely the mother, was without a doubt a Hindu and the marriage of his parents was performed according to Vedic rites. Besides, Sanjay Gandhi never underwent 'Navjot' ceremony to christen him a Parsee, Mr. Justice M. L. Jain held.

He was giving reasons for dismissing an appeal of Mrs. Meneka Gandhi challenging the order of the district judge granting one-third share to Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the estate of the late Sanjay Gandhi.

Mr. Justice Jain said Sanjay Gandhi was thus born of Hindu parents and "that section 21-A of the Special Marriages Act cannot be invoked in this case."

He also said that Mrs. Indira Gandhi had openly brought up Sanjay Gandhi as a Hindu and this fact had not been challenged.

In this case the question of succession opened on June 23, 1983, after the death of Sanjay Gandhi, and hence it had to be governed by the law that was in force on that date, the judge held.

On the appointment by him of Mr. R. K. Kaul, joint registrar of the high court, as the guardian ad-litem of Master Feroze Varun Gandhi to defend his rights in court, Mr. Justice Jain said he had to do it as the mother, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi had not filed the appeal on behalf of her son.

He observed that Mrs. Maneka Gandhi could not be appointed his guardian ad litem.

Besides, if his mother had not cared to appeal in his behalf the court was called upon to watch his interest and welfare.

Magnanimous Decision

Mr. Justice Jain said though the law does not give more than one-third share to Master Varun, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was made in two-thirds by giving him her share.

The district judge considered this action of Mrs. Indira Gandhi to be magnanimous. There is nothing in it that is against the record, Mr. Justice Jain said.

The district judge, Mr. M. K. Chawla, had on February 21 granted one-third share each to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi and her son, Master Feroze Varun Gandhi, in the estate of the late Sanjay Gandhi, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi had filed an appeal in the high court challenging the order.

CSO: 4600/1852

MORE REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PUNJAB

Split in Akali Dal

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] AMRITSAR, April 27. The Akali Dal formally split today, three months before its morcha was to complete two years, with a large number of pro-Sant Bhindranwale members talking out of the "Dal functionaries" meeting here after expressing lack of confidence in the leadership of Sant Longowal, president of the Dal and "dictator" of the morcha.

The dissident leaders claimed that those who walked out included 42 SGPC members, 127 district, circle and other functionaries.

The meeting was organised by Sant Longowal to make an assessment of the agitation and to give a new direction to it. The four-hour meeting was attended by the party MPs, MLAs, district unit presidents, SGPC members and conveners of various wings.

The dissidents were hooted by supporters of Sant Longowal when they walked out of the meeting. While they raised slogans like "Quom Ke Qatil-Murdabad", (down with killers of community) "Sant Bhindrawale zindabad" a lone voice was heard shouting anti-Bhindranwale slogan.

"Panth is biggar": Later, addressing a press conference, Sant Longowal in his appeal to the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest decision-making religious seat, offered to sacrifice his post as Jathedar "for the sake of the unity and glory of the Sikh Panth".

Saying that the "Panth is bigger than any individual", Sant Longowal said he would be ready even to step down as morcha dictator or to resign his post as party chief.

Without referring to the dissidents, he said certain forces were out to drive a wedge between the different Panthic organisations.

'Preplanned move': Sant Longowal described the walk-out as a "preplanned move" and said the dissidents' aim was to deepen the crisis. He appealed to

the dissidents not to destroy the unity of the "Panth" and asked them to let him have in writing any grudge they might have.

The meeting, appreciating the leadership of Sant Longowal in running the party morcha, warned the Government that if their genuine and just demands were not met immediately it could lead to "dangerous consequences".

Bhindranwale declared leader: After walking out of the meeting, the dissidents assembled on the roof of the Akal Takht, the temporary abode of Sant Bhindranwale and declared him as their leader.

Addressing them, Sant Bhindranwale made it clear that he was not forming a separate Akali Dal, and said they would continue to extend support to the "Panthic morcha".

He also announced categorically that he would not be on "talking terms" with Sant Longowal in future", and will not even exchange routine greetings".

He said he had nothing to do with the people walking out of the meeting. "I did not promise them a seat of power or a ticket for the elections", he added.

No rift: Sant Bhindranwale claimed that by staging a walk-out, the dissidents had not created a "rift" in the Sikh Panth, but only protested against the way Sant Longowal had been running the morcha.

A statement and lists of dissident members was released to the press. In it, the dissidents pledged their loyalty to Sant Bhindranwale and said "he remained Panthic, and would remain Panthic".

The dissidents said as Sant Longowal was not able to lead the Panth properly in the present morcha, it had disrupted the unity of the Panth which was achieved with the hard labour of Sant Bhindranwale.

Agents of Congress: The statement of the dissidents said Sant Bhindranwale and his supporters were branded as "traitors" and "agents of the Congress" at Sant Longowal had not taken any action against those who indulged in such accusations.

It alleged that certain persons "on the instigation of Sant Longowal" conspired to force Sant Bhindranwale to quit Guru Nanak Niwas and shift to Akal Takht along with his supporters. Sant Bhindranwale, it said, remained cool and calm in order to avoid bloodshed and entry of police in the Golden Temple keeping in view the sanctity of the shrine.

Secret parleys denied: The Akali Dal today denied that it had any secret parleys with the Centre on the Punjab tangle, Sant Longowal, in a statement said the party believed in open talks.

Rajiv Visit to Punjab

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] CHANDIGARH, April 29.--Mr Rajiv Gandhi, general secretary, AICC(I), today met party men from Punjab in preparation for the State unit's mass contact programme beginning on May 15.

He asked them to go to villages and towns, hold meetings and mobilize public opinion in favour of communal harmony and tell the people what the Congress (I) had done for them.

The three meetings, one with the Pradesh Congress (I) Committee and the other two with district level officer-bearers and legislators respectively, were held under strict security.

He called on Mr B. D. Pande, Governor, and assured him that there would be no extra security burden on the administration because of meetings in villages and towns. The plan was to hold small meetings without any VIPs coming from outside.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, addressing a Press conference, said the objective of the mass contact programme was to convince the people of the need to ignore rumours and the Opposition propaganda and not to get carried away by action which complicated the situation.

Asked if any of his party men urged restoration of a popular Government in the State, he said no one had raised the matter today.

He said there was no simple solution to the Punjab problem but claimed that the mass contact programme would be helpful. It would create a climate where the Akalis too would find themselves in a position to accept a settlement. He said his party's mass contact programme would not include any attack on the Akalis.

He felt tripartite meetings would not help solve the Punjab problem. Nobody, he said, knew what the political settlement could be. If terrorist attacks continued, it was no settlement. Political settlement and an end to terrorism had to be part of a solution.

Asked about his stand on police entry into gurdwaras, he said there should be no restriction on police entry into any shrine, gurdwara, mosque or temple, but the consequences should be studied before it was carried out.

Asked if he had evaluated the consequences, he said: "Yes" but did not disclose anything. Reminded of his earlier observation that effective steps should be taken to curb extremists, he said such steps had recently been taken and there had been a definite improvement in the situation during the past 10 days.

Terrorist activities, he claimed, had been reduced and many terrorists caught. When a reporter said there was no normal life in Punjab, he said he did not agree with the view. Police had taken action in Moga and Faridkot and the extremists there did not have the upper hand.

Asked about the foreign hand in the Punjab trouble, and about neighbouring countries' involvement, he said: "We do not have any hard evidence to show that they are not involved".

Asked if he would contest the next election from Karnal, he said it was news to him. He said he would stick to Amethi. Questioned on the nature of the contest against Mrs Maneka Gandhi, he said it would be no contest at all.

He said the Congress(I) organizational elections would be held after the general elections, which were to be held on schedule.

CSO: 4600/1854

RAJYA SABHA APPROVES AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 May 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 30. THE home minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, said in the Rajya Sabha today that the government would never accept the demand for a separate personal law for the Sikhs only.

He reiterated his earlier stand that the demand for creation of "Khalistan" would never be accepted by the government.

Mr. Sethi was replying to the two-hour debate on the bill to amend the National Security Act, 1980, in its application to the state of Punjab and the Union territory of Chandigarh, as passed by the Lok Sabha earlier.

The Rajya Sabha later passed the bill with a voice vote, signifying parliamentary clearance.

Mr. Sethi indicated that the government was trying to solve the Punjab problem politically. "We are having closed-door meetings with them," he said, without clearly specifying the word "them." He was obviously referring to Akali leaders.

Replying to the criticism that there was no need for an ordinance when the Lok Sabha was in session and the Rajya Sabha was to begin its session, Mr. Sethi said, "Some stringent powers for detention were needed urgently to cope with the situation in Punjab."

Mr. Sethi said that a large number of cases against extremists and errorists could not be successfully prosecuted as witnesses turned hostile during the trial. This was hampering speedy trial of cases.

The amendments sought through the bill were aimed at tackling anti-national and rabid communal elements. The new provisions in the National Security Act would remain in vogue only for a year and the situation would be reviewed thereafter, Mr. Sethi added.

Members from Punjab were conspicuous by their absence during the debate. The former chief minister, Mr. Darbara Singh, was, however, present for a few minutes when Mr. L. K. Advani, BJP leaders, was speaking on his statutory

resolution disapproving of the bill. Both the introduction of, and the resolution seeking disapproval for the bill were taken up together for consideration.

The bill seeks to amend the act to increase from ten days to 15 days the maximum period within which grounds of detention might in exceptional circumstances be communicated to the detenu.

It provides in certain cases for detention of persons without obtaining the opinion of the advisory board for a period of more than three months but not exceeding six months from the date of their detention.

Mr. Advani demanded a white paper on the Punjab situation containing facts regarding how the militant Sikh leader, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, and the Dal Khalsa had come to prominence within a short time.

Mr. Advani charged the government with taking the Punjab situation in a casual manner, as it had done in the case of Assam.

He said the principal problem in Punjab was not the decision on Chandigarh or river waters but the complete breakdown of the law and order machinery. The government had failed to check extremists' activities during the last three years.

He blamed the Congress for the spread of violence and communalism in Punjab and said such a situation had developed due to a feud between two Congress leaders in the state which encouraged extremist elements.

Mr. Advani said he was opposed to the casual approach to ordinance making and saw no rationale for it. He said the problem was not inadequacy of power but lack of will and the right perspective to deal with the situation effectively.

The BJP leader said the Akali leaders were trying to project Chandigarh and river waters as problems of life and death. These problems had existed for a decade.

Mr. Advani said he was more sore because the Akali Dal was with them in the government during those years when there was no evidence that these issues were needed to be sorted out on an urgent basis.

Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee (CPM) opposed the bill on the ground that a political solution was required and the government was projecting it as if it was only a law and order problem.

Mr. Ramanand Yadav (Cong.) blamed the Janata for playing hot and cold and said that it was the opposition which was responsible for the present situation in Punjab. He said the extremists were being trained and weapons being supplied by some foreign powers.

BANGLADESH ALLEGED INTERVENING IN TRIPURA BORDER AFFAIRS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 May 84 p 9

[Text] AGARTALA, April 30.--In a letter to Mrs. Gandhi, the Tripura Chief Minister, Mr. Nripen Chakrabarti, is believed to have expressed his concern over the "intervention by the Bangladesh authorities repeatedly into the State's border affairs".

On his return from Delhi on Saturday after a three day visit, Mr Chakrabarti said here that he had apprised the Prime Minister of "some ominous developments" along the border on which the State Government was now keeping close watch. Since he could not meet the Prime Minister, during his brief stay in Delhi, Mr Chakrabarti said, he had explained the situation in detail in a letter to her before he left the capital on April 27. Mr Chakrabarti was, however, reluctant to disclose the points on which he had dwelt in the letter.

He had met the Union Home Minister, Mr P C Sethi, the Union Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, and the Minister for Railways, Mr A. B. A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, on April 26.

The Chief Minister said the Tribal National Volunteer extremists were now fairly active in the State's southern region along the border of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. The extremists, who were crossing over to the South Tripura areas from the Chittagong Hill Tracts with sophisticated arms, had had several encounters with the security detachments in the past few weeks, he said. He, however, stated that there was no evidence of any involvement of the outlawed Mizo National Front insurgents in the recent attacks in different parts of the State.

Referring to an earlier assurance by the Union Home Minister, the Chief Minister said three additional battalions of the BSF and the CRPF would soon be deployed in the State for the panchayat elections slated for May 24. The State Government would retain one of these battalions to tighten security measures along the State's 100-km wooded border with the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Meanwhile, the chief of the clandestine TNV, Mr Vijoy Kumar Hrangwhawl, in a letter from his camp at Singlum, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, is believed to

have appealed to Mrs Gandhi to find a political solution to the extremists problem in Tripura Mizoram and Punjab.

He alleged in his letter that the Letf Front Government in Tripura had already reached a political settlement with the "so-called extremists" of the "Army of Tripura People's Liberation Organization", led by Mr Binonda Jamatiya, which did not represent either any underground struggle for the tribals' cause, nor any of the factions termed extremist units.

A copy of the letter, dated April 4 was released by the TNV by post to such media as the national news agencies, the BBC and the Voice of America.

In another similar letter to the State's Chief Minister, the TNV leader urged him to release all those held in police custody in connexion with the recent TNV activities.

Mr Chakrabarti, who was reluctant to attach importance to such communication from the underground, remarked it was clear that Mr Hrangwhawl was still operating from his camp in Bangladesh. TNV's failure to set up its camp within Tripura's territory had evoked his anger, Mr Chakrabarti said.

CSO: 4600/1845

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES SITUATION ON PAKISTAN BORDER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 May 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 8.--The Defence Minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, said in the Rajya Sabha today that three-fourths of the Pakistani troops were deployed on India's border. That was why he had to keep the country's defence preparedness at its peak. "There is no alternative" the Defence Minister said.

He was replying to a discussion on a call-attention motion on the threat to India's security on account of developments along the Indo-Pak border and Pakistan's nuclear programmes. The motion was tabled by Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP) and others.

Giving details of the deployment of the Pakistani troops, Mr Venkataraman said that four infantry divisions were in the Jammu and Kashmir sector, three armoured brigades and six infantry divisions in the Punjab sector, one armoured brigade and one infantry division on the Gujarat border and one armoured and two infantry divisions in the Rajasthan sector. There was concentration of troops in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Compared to this, the deployment on the Afghanistan border was small, he pointed out.

There had been 35 incidents of firing from across the borders in Kashmir in April alone. There had been incidents of air violations as well. There were threats from airfields in Gilgit and Skadu. How could the country afford to be complacent? he asked.

Referring to the nuclear capability of Pakistan, Mr Venkataraman said that India could not take any risk and, therefore, would have to be prepared. He assured the House that adequate measures had been taken, should there be any misadventure by Pakistan. "Our nuclear technology is fairly abreast," he said.

The Defence Minister said that India's future policy would be to reduce infantrymen and concentrate on armaments and electronic counter measures.

Regarding China's help to Pakistan as stated by members, Mr Venkataraman took care to point that India had "very good and friendly" relations with China. Beijing was not hostile to India, he said.

During the discussion, Opposition members, by and large, blamed the Government for overreacting to Pakistan. The tone was set by Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP). Mr J. P. Goyal (L.D.) and Mr. K. Mohajan (CPI-M) questioned the Government's motive, though the latter asserted that Pakistan was part of the machinery of American imperialism. Mr Chaturanan Mishra (CPI) went a step further and said that the American actions should be declared unfriendly acts.

Mr M. S. Gurupadaswamy (J) failed to understand why Pakistan had resorted to such measures "in this juncture Mr Suresh Kalmadi (C-S) said that India was not lagging behind in acquiring weapons. Mr Madan Bhatia (Nom) said that Pakistan was becoming Israel to south Asia. He wanted retaliatory capacity to be developed to meet any eventuality.

Mr Venkataraman assured the Rajya Sabha that the second review of the defence services would be completed in a month. He was replying to a supplementary of Mr Suresh Kalmadi.

Mr Venkataraman said that fringe benefits to the personnel of the armed forces were the best. He told Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP) that it would not possible to take "anybody and everybody" even if the vacancies were not filled up in technical services of the armed forces. Physical fitness and alertness were the principal criteria for selection, he added.

Earlier, in his written statement, Mr Venkataraman said: Pakistan's continued efforts to achieve uranium enrichment and spent-fuel reprocessing capability have raised doubts about her declared policy of use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. The recent media reports regarding Pakistan having attained the capability of production of weapons-grade enriched uranium have caused deep concern, among us. This has grave security implications which we can ill-afford to ignore.

"In spite of all these developments we have been exercising utmost restraint and are persevering in our policy of peace with Pakistan. We have repeatedly expressed our deep concern to Pakistan about her massive arms acquisitions, have lodged protests regarding violations of our air space and have resolved firing incidents by means of flag meetings in keeping with the spirit of the Simla agreement.

"I would like to assure the House that the Government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and that our armed forces are prepared to meet any contingency. We sincerely hope that Pakistan would reciprocate our efforts to improve relations and would not do anything detrimental to such efforts".

Mr Venkataraman declined to reconsider the West Bengal Government's request to set up a unit of Bharat Electronics in the Salt Lake area of Calcutta, adds UNI.

He told Mr Kanak Mukherjee that on account of various factors, including the site's proximity to the border, it was not possible to accede to the State's request.

CSO: 4600/1851

REPORT ON SUBMARINE BUILDING AT MAZAGON DOCKS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 May 84 p 13

[Text] BOMBAY, May 3.--The inauguration of the construction of submarines on Sunday at Mazgaon Docks by Mr. Gandhi adds a new dimension to the efforts of the Mazgaon docks here, which specializes in indigenous construction of warships to meet the Navy's needs.

Mazgaon Docks, in building submarine in collaboration with the West German firm Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft of Kiel, assimilating new technology.

The Defence undertakings now manufacture a wide variety of weapons and equipment, aircraft, missiles, sophisticated electronic equipment and even super alloys. But this is the first time that India is constructing submarines.

The first two submarines of this class are now being built by HDW and till now, about 100 engineers and technicians of Mazgaon Docks have been trained in construction design, planning and quality control. Another 25 engineers and technicians will be trained in other matters.

The Mazgaon Docks has built a special submarine project workshop and special plant machinery and equipment have been procured and installed for the purpose. It has plans to use the latest construction methods with strict quality control at each stage under the supervision of Navy officers. The main thrust of the project, according to Mr N. K. Sawhney, chairman and managing director of Mazgaon Docks, is to establish the capability for designing and building modern submarines.

First Submarine in 1987

The dock will build two submarines at present. The first will be delivered to the Navy in July, 1987, and the second in March, 1988. The submarines have been specially designed to meet the requirements of the Navy and they will be fitted with the latest weapons and equipment, comparable to the most advanced conventional submarines in the world.

The Defence Minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, stated during the inaugural function on Sunday that with the transfer of technology in the sophisticated area of

submarine tion, and the setting up of specialized facilities. Mazgaon Docks would acquire the capability of building submarines which very few countries in the world possessed.

Mazgaon Dock undertook the construction of frigate for the Navy in 1966. The first Indian-built Leander-class frigate, INS Nilgiri, was launched in Mazgaon Docks in October, 1968. Six Leander-class frigates have been delivered since then. After completing this programme, Mazgaon Docks has now gone in for building Godavari-class frigates based on indigenous design. The first of these frigates was recently commissioned. While the second frigate is being fitted out, the third has recently been launched.

Mazgaon docks has also been constructing off-shore oil platforms. Mr Sawhney outlined the strategy of Mazgaon Docks to manufacture high-technology high-value products. The priorities of Mazgaon Docks were the building of defence and offshore platforms and rigs.

Mr Sawhney said the construction offshore platforms had not slackened the tempo of defence work. Today, shipbuilding and off-shore work were two separate profit centres, with their own managers, employees and yard facilities.

Mazgaon Docks achieved a record growth during the past two years. The value of production increased from Rs 124 crores in 1981-82 to Rs 227 crores in 1983-83 [as published] and to Rs 287 crores in 1983-84. Profits increased from Rs 5.5 crores to more than Rs 10 crores and Rs 14.2 crores in this corresponding period. The return on capital increased from 10% to 15%.

CSO: 4600/1851

RESERVE BANK GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES CREDIT POLICY

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 May 84 p 1

[Text] BOMBAY, April 30. The Reserve Bank Governor, Dr. Manmohan Singh, announced here today an increase in the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) from 35 per cent to 36 per cent of net demand and time liabilities. This will be in two phases of 35.5 per cent effective from July 28, and 36 per cent effective from September 1.

At the same time, the Reserve Bank has decided to release to banks one-fifth of the cash balances impounded between January, 1977 and October, 1980 under the 10 per cent incremental cash reserve ratio in two equal instalments on September 29, 1984 and October 27, 1984. The cut-off point for term loans given to private sector parties not covered by the Credit Authorisation Scheme (CAS) is being raised from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore.

Dr. Manmohan Singh pointed out at a meeting of the chief executives of major commercial banks that although the overall growth rate of the economy in 1984-85 could not be predicted at this stage, it was realistic to assume a significantly lower figure than in 1983-84.

Taking into account the rapid growth of liquidity in recent years, a significant increase in primary money creation and a rise of nearly nine per cent in wholesale prices during 1983-84 despite a record food crop, it was essential, he said, that, in the interest of orderly economic management and reasonable price stability, a deceleration in the rate of growth of money supply, overall liquidity and primary money creation should be regarded as an important objective of the economic policy.

Emphasising that the credit policy must assist in the achievement of this objective, he said "in formulating the credit policy for the coming slack season, it is necessary to pay balanced attention to all the considerations, often conflicting with one another, which have a bearing both on the overall growth of the economy and the climate for economic stability. While there has to be an adequate scope for credit expansion to meet the requirements of productive sectors, the overall emphasis of credit policy must be to help in moderating the rate of growth of liquidity and in curbing inflationary expectations.

"In the light of uncertainty associated with weather conditions, the fiscal outlook and the balance of payments outcome, there can be no relaxation of credit discipline. Banks must ensure that bank credit finances only those productive ventures that effectively add to domestic productive capacity and productivity. Credit policy has to ensure that adequate finance is made available to meet the credit requirements for the rabi food procurement and to support the growth of industrial output without fuelling inflationary expectations. As such, the financing of these productive requirements should be met without creating primary money," he said.

"While the growth of scheduled commercial banks deposits in 1984-85 is inherently difficult to forecast," he said it would be reasonable at this stage to use as a working estimate a deposit growth of Rs 9,600 crores (15.8 per cent). Banks should plan their operations on the basis that the growth of deposits in the first half of 1984-85 would be around Rs. 4,800 crores. With this level of estimated growth of deposits, the banks would be able to meet the enhanced SLR and still provide for a credit expansion of Rs. 1,700 crores in the first half of 1984-85.

Dr. Manmohan Singh announced that the following regulatory measures would remain unchanged:

A. The cash reserve requirement of 9 per cent of net demand and time liabilities and the incremental cash reserve ratio of 10 per cent of the increase in net demand and time liabilities over the level as on November 11, 1983 are continued.

B. The deposit and lending rates and refinance rates remain unchanged.

C. Food credit refinance would continue to be provided to the extent of 100 per cent over the outstanding level of food procurement credit of Rs. 3,300 crores. Since food credit in the middle of April 1984 is well over the cut-off point for refinance, banks would have no difficulty in meeting the credit requirements for the rabi food procurement.

D. The highly liberal export refinance formula of 125 per cent refinance for any increase in export credit over the monthly average level for 1982 remains unchanged. This provides a substantial incentive to banks to increase their export credit: The refinance entitlements have increased from Rs. 201 crores as at the end of November 1983 to Rs. 474 crores as on April 13, 1984.

CSO: 4600/1846

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS PROJECTIONS FOR SEVENTH PLAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 May 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 10. The aggregate investment during the Seventh Five Year Plan should be Rs. 3,25,051 crores at 1984-85 prices, corresponding to Rs. 2,06,408 crores at 1979-80 prices, according to the macroeconomic projections worked out by the Planning Commission.

The Commission has asked its different working groups to keep this and other figures in mind while drawing up the sectoral outlays for the Seventh Plan.

According to these projections, the gross domestic product is expected to increase from Rs. 1,77,582 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 2,26,644 crores in 1989-90 (1984-85 prices) at "factor cost", while its values at market prices would be respectively Rs. 1,55,663 crores and Rs. 2,60,213 crores.

The net capital inflow into the country has been estimated to increase from Rs. 1,850 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 4,455 crores in 1989-90. The rate of saving will stay at the same level of 26.1 per cent in 1989-90 as in 1984-85.

Balance of payments: The macroeconomic projections give two sets of figures for balance of payments. The first one, worked out on the basis of the country's requirements net of oil exports indicates that the exports during 1985-90 would be Rs. 70,094 crores. While imports would be Rs. 1,07,899 crores, earnings from net invisibles will be Rs. 17,620 crores, leaving a current account deficit of Rs. 20,185 crores. According to another set of figures, exports during 1985-90 will be Rs. 58,259 crores, imports Rs. 89,613 crores, while net invisibles would contribute Rs. 14,794 crores, leaving a current account deficit of Rs. 16,560 crores.

Only a small increase: The projects indicate that the rate of growth during the Seventh Plan period will show only a small increase, up to five per cent from the 4.9 per cent likely to be achieved during the Sixth Plan. The sectoral percentage rates of growth for the Seventh Plan are as follows, the figures in brackets indicating the growth likely to be achieved during the Sixth Plan; agriculture and allied services: 3.5 (3.8): mining and quarrying, 8.0 (12.4): manufacturing 5.6 (6.3): electricity, gas and water supply 6.9 (5.2): construction 4.4 (3.8): railway 5.9 (5.4): communications 5.9 (6.1).

According to the projectson, the total demand for foodgrains in 1989-90 will be 191 million tonnes and this could be met from indigenous production. No im-ports will have to be made. Similarly, the projected demand for 14,500 million square metres of textile in 1989-90 can be met without any import.

Enough cement by 1990: However, in the case of fertilizer, the likely imports in 1989-90 will be around three million tonnes while indigenous production is expected to increase to about nine million tonnes from 5.2 million tonnes in 1984-85. Similarly, about one million tonnes of steel may have to be im-ported in 1989-90, while indigenous production is projected to increase from 9.9 million tonnes in 1984-85 to about 13 million tonnes. Cement production is projected to go up to 48.50 million tonnes from an estimated 34.5 million tonnes in 1984-85. No imports will be necessary.

Electricity generation is expected to go up from 165 billion kilowatt hours in 1984-85 to about 280 billion kilowatt hours in the final year of the Seventh Plan. The increase in originating railway traffic will be from 275 million tonne kilometres to about 385 million tonne kilometres. The increase in gross irrigated areas between 1984-85 and 1989-90 will be from 67.54 million hectares to about 90 million hectares.

CSO: 4600/1853

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SPEAKS AT FAO REGIONAL MEET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 May 84 p 8

[Text]

Islamabad, May 1 (PTI)—India has supported the setting up of a regional food security commission and called for concerted international efforts for increasing food and agricultural production to achieve the desired goal of "food for all".

Addressing the 17th FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific, Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh yesterday said that since the resources of land, water and investment funds were relatively scarce, integrated production systems and proper farm management deserved special attention.

He referred to the FAO document suggesting an average increase of about 0.4 per cent in agricultural production in the region. He pointed out, however, that in six food deficit countries of the region the growth in foodgrain production has been lower than the rate of population expansion.

India was elected one of the five vice-chairmen of the conference being attended by representatives of 27 countries accounting for about 55 per cent of mankind.

Mr Eduard Saouma, FAO director-general, in his address said that the general economic environment remained difficult, even if the worst of the recession was over.

He asked the developed countries to relax the stranglehold of protections which held back the growth of the region's exports of processed agricultural raw materials such as tex-

tiles and leather goods.

Mr Saouma praised India for its bumper wheat production in 1983 and achieving what has been called a "white revolution."

The FAO director-general pointed out that prospects for aid to agriculture remained far from reassuring. Particularly disquieting was the resource situation of the International Development Association (IDA) which has been a major supporter of Asian agriculture.

A reduction of IDA funds to nine billion dollars for the seventh replenishment (IDA-7) would certainly affect the agricultural development of various regions.

Rao Birendra Singh underscored the need for improving the income levels of a large mass of small and marginal farmers in the developing countries of the region.

He felt that if the farmer's knowledge of technology was upgraded, his needs of inputs and credit were taken care of and a remunerative price for the produce was assured, the pace of progress could be greatly stepped up.

Rao Birendra Singh also called for more organised and trained participation of women, youth and other sections of rural population in agriculture.

The FAO director-general noted that many countries in the region were striving to give more recognition and support to the important role played by rural women in development.

PROBLEMS IN RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOR NATIONS DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 May 84 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 9. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao told the Lok Sabha today that the foreign secretary, Mr. M. Rasgotra will visit Pakistan on May 19 for discussions on normalising ties with that country.

Replying to the special discussion on the present international situation, he said there were two documents for consideration. One was Pakistan's proposal for a no-war pact and the other was India's offer of a peace and friendship treaty.

Mr. Rao said India realised the difficulties of immediately entering into a pact. He reaffirmed India's stand that it was always willing for talks and there was no question of discontinuing the parleys. If the negotiations with Pakistan did not work out and that country continued with its militarisation, India could not be blamed for the consequences.

No inconsistency: The External Affairs Minister said there has been no inconsistency in the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi's statement about the situation in the sub-continent. Mr. Rao said Mrs. Gandhi had only been talking about increasing tension in this region because of the induction of sophisticated weapons far beyond the legitimate requirements of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister had always made known India's stand that it would never attack Pakistan or any other country. He categorically denied that a war hysteria was being shipped up with an eye on the coming general elections.

He denied the Janata member, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy's contention that India had given a proposal to Sri Lanka for solving the ethnic problem there. The proposal emerged out of the discussions the Government had with Sri Lankan president, Mr. Jayewardene during his visit to the CHOGM here. "He (Mr. Jayewardene) was a party to it," he said.

Mr. Rao recalled that Mr. Jayewardene had also expressed the opinion that there was no military solution to the ethnic problem. India, he said, had taken up with the Sri Lanka Government its naval blockade which was inconsistent with the guidelines of 1974 and the maritime boundary of the two countries.

Responding to Mr. Indrajit Gupta's question, Mr. Rao said close on the heels of the U.S. President, Mr. Ronald Reagan's visit to China, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. I. V. Arkhipov was scheduled to go there. He said these must be viewed in the context that no nation wanted to be at loggerheads with another for long and sought improvement in its relations. "This is an ongoing process". However, further examination was required to assess the result of Mr. Reagan's visit to China.

Opposition members, especially those from Tamil Nadu, charged the Government with mishandling the issue of Sri Lanka Tamils.

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, who introduced a substitute motion to the one moved by Mr. Narashinha Rao, was highly critical of the foreign policy and wanted the Government to maintain equidistance from the two superpowers. The country had earned a reputation that in times of crisis it tilted towards the Soviet Union. He wanted this image to be corrected. The substitute motion was defeated.

During the debate, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi denied having spoken of an imminent war threat from Pakistan and even specifying a date of the attack.

Clarifying this, he said a lot of things appeared in the press and he could not be answerable for them. All that he had said was that whenever Pakistan had acquired arms they had invariably been used against India. He had also said that the type of weapons being acquired by that country could not be used in Afghanistan but only against India. "I had not specified any date" (for a Pakistani attack), he added.

Mr. Satyasadhan Chakraborty (CPI-M) urged the Government to unite with the socialist bloc in countering the imperialist threat of war, destabilisation and exploitation.

He alleged the U.S. and other Western powers were trying to convince the people that a nuclear confrontation would remain limited and not affect the entire mankind. "This is a false theory," Mr. Chakraborty observed.

India was surrounded by hostile neighbours because of U.S. machinations. Pakistan formed a part of U.S. strategy to continue the exploitation of developing countries, he added.

Prof. Chakraborty said the success of a country's foreign policy was judged by its relations with neighbours and India had nothing to boast about it.

The marxist member said any instability in Bangladesh was dangerous to India.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta (CPI) said the relations with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh had become strained both because of internal and external compulsions faced by these countries. With regard to Pakistan, he said there were two Pakistans, one represented by Gen. Zia-ul Haq and the other by the forces fighting for restoration of democracy in that country.

Mr. Braja Mohan Mohanty (Cong-I) felt the Soviet presence in Afghanistan was a deterrent against a Pakistani aggression. Speaking of a nexus between Pakistan, China and the United States, he said this reality should be fully understood while handling bilateral issues with Pakistan.

Mr. Era Anbarasu (Cong-I) and Mr. C. T. Dandapani (DMK) spoke of the continuing killing of Tamils in Sir Lanka. A lasting solution should be found at the earliest for solving the ethnic problem in the Island.

Mr. B. R. Bhagat (Cong-I) said the international situation was grave.

CSO: 4600/1855

PARLIAMENT PANEL QUESTIONS IMPORT OF TRAINER AIRCRAFT

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 May 84 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 1.

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has called for an inquiry why an order of over Rs. 14 crores was placed for import of trainer aircraft when the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was all set to meet the requirements of the Air Headquarters in this regard.

The Committee, in its report presented to the Lok Sabha on Monday, pointed out that in March 1974 a long-term pilot training plan was prepared for 1977-86, with reference to indigenously manufactured aircraft "K".

Simultaneously, for the interim period 1975-77, the Air Headquarters had formulated an extended contingency training plan for the courses commencing during this period.

In July 1974, it was felt that to implement this training plan the existing assets of aircraft "K", together with deliveries of aircraft anticipated per year with a maximum utilisation rate of 30 hours per aircraft per month, would fall short of the requirement by 42 per cent in 1975, 39 per cent in 1976 and 40 per cent in 1977.

Subsequently in April 1975 an agreement was entered into with a government of country "X" to import a certain number of "K" aircraft, it said.

The Committee expressed surprise that the orders for the import of aircraft were placed without fully exploring the possibility of meeting the increased requirement of trainer aircraft by augmenting the production of "K" which was being indigenously manufactured by HAL.

The Committee was of the opinion that

if the order for additional requirement of trainer aircraft was placed on the HAL in 1974, it could have started meeting the entire requirement of the Air Force from 1977 onwards.

It expressed its deep concern at the manner in which the Ministry of Defence took a decision to import trainer aircraft at a cost of more than Rs. 14 crores involving scarce foreign exchange.

The Committee also strongly recommended that the capacity of the HAL which had been developed over the years with huge public investments for meeting the requirement of the Air Force for different aircraft should be utilised optimally. —PTI.

BRIEFS

INDO-PAKISTAN COOPERATION--ISLAMABAD, April 29 (PTI): India and Pakistan today stressed the desirability of exchange of high-level visits between the two countries in the fields of planning and agriculture. An initiative for a regular exchange of views need not necessarily wait for the two sides to attain complete political understanding on bilateral matters. This was the outcome of a 90-minute meeting the visiting Indian agriculture minister, Rao Birendra Singh, had with the Pakistan planning minister, Dr. Mahbubul Haq. Dr. Haq felt that the economic backwardness of the two neighbours provided a strong basic need for sharing their experiences. Mr. Rao Birendra Singh, who arrived here late last night to attend the FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific, said he would utilise the opportunity to meet Pakistani leaders and discuss steps to forge close co-operation between the two countries. Both India and Pakistan recognise the need for co-operation in the field of agriculture. The two sides agree in principle on the need for an exchange of scientists and experts for mutual benefit. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Apr 84 p 9]

SIND MERGER ADVOCATED--NEW DELHI, May 1 (PTI): A veteran political leader of Sind, Mr. G. M. Syed, has favoured a confederation of the Sind province with India. In an interview to a Karachi weekly, which was quoted by the influential daily "Muslim" in a front-page report, Mr. Syed said his party, Jiy Sind, would welcome such a confederation. Jiy Sind has been advocating the independence of Sind province and on that count opposing the military rule of the Pakistan president, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq. Mr. Syed said his party would boycott all elections as he wanted a change not only of the government but also of the constitution. Mr. Syed said Sheikh Mujibur Rehman had given him an undertaking that he would restore the rights of Sind when he won the 1971 elections in undivided Pakistan. He said the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) in Pakistan was a failure. His party, therefore, would not associate with it. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 May 84 p 9]

TRADE WITH BURMA--NEW DELHI, April 26: India has taken an unusual initiative to intensify trade relations with Burma. A high-level official delegation led by the commerce secretary, Mr. Abid Hussain, is just back from Rangoon after wide-ranging talks on commercial and economic co-operation between the two countries. As for the specific commercial deals, India has contracted for the import of 350,000 tonnes of rice from Burma. It has shown interest in buying another 200,000 tonnes of rice. The possibilities of buying

pulses, timber, raw skin and hides and minerals are also being examined by India. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Apr 84 p 9]

OUTER SPACE WEAPONS--LONDON, April 29.--India has called for a ban on the development of weapons intended to be used in outer space and for an immediate reversal of the present trend of militarization of outer space, reports PTI. Expressing India's grave concern at the arms race in outer space, the Indian Ambassador to the U.N., Mr Muchkand Dubey, told the disarmament conference in Geneva that militarization of outer space was already on in a big way and it would acquire uncontrollable proportions if not halted soon. The moment to act was now he said, adding: "If we can succeed in urgently negotiating an agreement or agreements, we will have prohibited the newest round of build-up of futuristic weapons which will take us to a point of no return." [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Apr 84 p 5]

PUBLIC SECTOR OUTPUT--NEW DELHI, April 28.--Central public sector undertakings of the Department of Industrial Development ended 1983-84 with a production figure 20.95% higher than the previous year's reports UNI. According to an official review, these units produced goods worth Rs 50,329 lakhs, against Rs 41,611 lakhs during 1982-83. Month-wise production from April 1983 to March 1984, too, was higher than the corresponding months of 1982-83. Only two of 13 undertakings recorded a decline in production over 1982-83. The Cement Corporation of India showed 2.15% lower production and Bharat Ophthalmic Glass 7.33% less. Though four of the undertakings achieved more than 100% of the production targets fixed for 1983-84 the average target achievement of all these undertakings was 93.28%. Against the total Rs 2,507-lakh profit earned by seven undertakings, the other units incurred a total loss of Rs 3,830.90 lakhs, leaving a total overall loss of Rs 1,323.72 lakhs. The profit-earning undertakings included Andrew Yule (Rs 461.60 lakhs); the Cement Corporation of India (Rs 802 lakhs), Hindustan Cables (Rs 380 lakhs) and Hindustan Photo Films (Rs 475 lakhs). All these undertakings, however, achieved a production target of 101.06% during the last month of the financial year 1983-84, producing goods valued Rs 6,711.56 lakhs. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Apr 84 p 7]

MANIPUR MINISTERS DROPPED--IMPHAL, April 27.--Two Ministers have been dropped from the Manipur Cabinet by the Chief Minister, Mr Rishang Keising, rendering the strength of the Ministry from 19 to 17 reports PTI. They are Mr Satkholal, Minister of State for Irrigation and Flood Control and Mr Ch. Rajmohan Singh, Minister of State for Power and Fisheries. Mr Satkholal subsequently submitted his resignation and it has been accepted by the Governor, Mr S. M. H. Burney. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Apr 84 p 14]

JAMMU, KASHMIR GOVERNOR--JAMMU, April 26.--Mr Jagmohan was sworn in here today as the new Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Mr Justice V. Khalid, at a colourful function held at Raj Bhavan here today. Those present at the oath-taking ceremony included the State's Chief Minister, Mr Farooq Abdullah, his Cabinet colleagues, judges of the High Court, members of the State Legislature, senior Army, Air Force and Government officials.

Soon after the ceremony. Mr Abdullah called on the Governor to apprise him of the law and order and political situation in the State. Talking to reporters after the swearing-in ceremony, Mr Jagmohan said that he would make an on-the-spot study of the political, law and order and economic situation of the State before commenting on any of these subjects. He said his doors were open for all who wanted to apprise him about the current situation in the State. PTI adds: Mr Padmakar Ganesh Gavai was sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Delhi at a simple function at Raj Niwas in the New Delhi this evening. The Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Mr Prakash Narain, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 58-year-old Mr Gavi, former advisor to the Punjab Governor. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Apr 84 p 1]

TRADE WITH IRAN--NEW DELHI, May 1. A major step-up in trade between India and Iran is expected from the Ministerial-level talks that began here today between a trade delegation from Iran, headed by the Commerce Minister, Mr. Haasan Abedi Jaafari and Indian team, led by the Commerce Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh. Both sides agreed to tap the vast potential that existed for expanding trade, both by stepping up the quantity of current export items and adding new products in the trade basket. Mr. Singh hoped that trade could be balanced if Indian efforts to export more were supported from Iranian authorities. The Iranian Minister's response was promising, Mr. Singh felt that the two countries could enter the field of joint ventures and invited Iran for participation in ventures in free trade zones. Mr. Jaafari said his team was keen on identifying areas for stepping up trade and industrial cooperation. Standardisation of quality and strict adherence to both quality and delivery schedules were essential to keep up the momentum in trade. The meeting set up three working groups to identify the areas for cooperation. The groups' reports will be considered at a plenary session and memorandum of understanding signed on Thursday. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 May 84 p 9]

PUNJAB REPORTING CODE--At a meeting in Delhi on Friday between a team of officials from Punjab led by its advisor to Governor Dr S S Sidhu and the chiefs of the four news agencies, it was decided to avoid direct reference to any community or religious organisations while reporting on happenings in Punjab. An official release of the Punjab Government in Delhi said that the chiefs of the four news agencies decided to avoid sensationalising news on the current situation in Punjab. The news agencies would be following guidelines along the code of conduct adopted by the newspapers in Punjab while dealing with communal tension. These being that the name of the community allegedly involved in the act of violence and names of religious places where any act of sacrilege has taken place will be avoided so as not to arouse any public feelings. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Apr 84 p 32]

NEW MIZORAM CABINET--Aizawl, May 8 (PTI)--The Mizoram Chief Minister Lalthanhawla today distributed portfolios among his three Cabinet colleagues retaining for himself charge of home and information and public relations. Mr Lalthanhawla will also look after PWD, political, general administration, tourism, printing and stationery, law, judicial and strict council affairs, department of personnel and administrative reforms. Mr Sainghaka will be in charge of finance, planning, revenue, excise, taxation, power and electricity,

industries, health and family welfare, animal husbandry and veterinary departments. The announcements were made by the Lieutenant Governor, H S Dubey. Mr Rokamlova will hold charge of education, social welfare, community development, co-operation, labour and employment. Mr R Thangluana will look after supply, transport, agriculture, soil conservation, forest, local administration and parliamentary affairs. The Ministry is likely to be expanded soon with induction of one Cabinet Minister and two Ministers of State.
[Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 May 84 p 6]

CSO: 4600/1856

PAPER COMMENTS ON MAJLIS ELECTION, 'PLOTS OF GLOBAL ARROGANCE'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Apr 84 p 15

[Text] At the close of the elections for the session of Islamic Majlis, even before voting results were known, it was clearly evident that there was little chance of success for conspiracies of satans of East and West. Polling the public's opinion in order to select the government organs, has been one of the most fundamental deeds of the Islamic Republic. And one can courageously state that this has had no precedent anywhere in today's so-called civilized world. In Islamic Iran, the first elections were held only 50 days after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. And yesterday (Sunday), in conjunction with the glorious occasion of the birthday of the embodiment of truth, justice, knowledge and virtue, Imam Ali (Greetings upon him), millions of Iran's Muslim and revolutionary people from all over the country, took another basic and effective step in strengthening the stability and cohesion of the Islamic Revolution, by participating in the ninth elections in the Islamic Republic. Nationwide elections for the second session of the Islamic Majlis and mid-term elections for the Council of Experts were held yesterday (Sunday) throughout the country in some 32,000 voting precincts in a calm and safe atmosphere, with an unprecedented turnout by the brave people of Iran drawn into an imposed war by the anti-Islamic superpowers for the past 43 months. Public reception of the elections was to such a degree that the minister of interior, responding to the public demands, had to extend the scheduled deadlines on two occasions for a total of 4 hours. Yesterday 2,560 mobile and stationary voting facilities were confronted with long and short lines of millions of Tehran's Muslim people. Tehran's residents, performing their religious-Islamic duty, remaining composed after waiting for hours in most precincts, cast their ballots for 30 candidates from a list of over 150 names. They did so with revolutionary zest and their Islamic political courage, in complete freedom, safety and confidence. And this occurred while global arrogance, Zionism and bankruptcy-ridden counterrevolution fronts, although experiencing the futility of their propaganda, repeatedly used all available means to discourage the public from participating in the elections and charting their own destiny. Various bankrupt and fugitive bands, from hypocrites to other lackeys of East and West, had declared and promoted various boycotts against the elections. The Western media, particularly state-owned British, French and American radio networks, made constant use of propaganda to mislead and reduce the general confidence of Iran's Muslim people. Counter-revolution and monarchist radios made various attempts to broadcast ridiculous rumors which even their own local hollow agents could not believe. Blind-hearted hypocrites, for whom Saddam's palace serves as the Mecca of their dreams and

who are in control of the Persian desk of the Baghdad Radio, tried throwing poison against elections by devoting portions of Baghdad Radio Persian services to the coverage of childish acts of their remaining dispersed members. The most important reported item was the so-called courageous act of tearing up a few election posters of a Majlis candidate. It is interesting and serves as a lesson that these subservient hypocrites, immediately after resorting to such ridiculous acts and in order to gain the attention and confidence of their Western and Zionist masters, emphasized that they were the sole natural force to replace the Islamic Republic in Iran. An absurd claim that grips with painful laughter the leaders of global arrogance whose plundering interests in the region--and perhaps in the world--have been jeopardized due to the zenith of stability reached by the rule of Islam in Iran.

In addition, Western news media, which never broadcasts reports or analysis of the so-called legislative processes of countries such as Kuwait, the Saudi monarchy, Bahrain, El Salvador, Chile and others under the domination of arrogance, gave Iran's elections surprisingly wide coverage during the last 2 weeks. Throughout these announcements and analysis, there were futile attempts to create a mood of apathy, despair and doubt among the people. Also, yesterday's (Sunday's) broadcasts by some Western news media tried to play down the heavy, unified participation of Iran's revolutionary voters by addressing and focusing on ordinary and unavoidable events stemming from revolution. When a demonstration by several hundred Muslim Iranian students in London took place while being surrounded by 2,000 police, but they did not report to the world about this lack of security in England; but yesterday, the Western press and their news axis, placed all their emphasis on the presence of two revolution guard brothers in front of the polling booths. Nothing was said about the unprecedented public turnout, long lines of voters, wide participation by religious minorities in complete freedom, or about the fact that elections were conducted under the unusual circumstances of war. Briefly, global arrogance employed all available resources, either using them itself, or by making them available to the counterrevolution. However, from yesterday's early morning hours, when the brave people of Tehran, in city's various neighborhoods formed long lines in front of the polling stations from 0600, all conspiracies and plots by arrogance and counterrevolution melted away as writing on ice. The public's rush to the ballot boxes for 14 hours completely demoralized the front for arrogance. And now that elections have ended in commendable safety and good fortune, one should not expect an end to the conspiracies of the satans.

9996

CSO: 4640/199

RADIO NETWORK EXPANSION TO NEUTRALIZE ANTI-IRANIAN PROPAGANDA

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 May 84 pp 5, 8

[Excerpts] In the last year we have witnessed several powerful radio transmitting centers going into operation in various parts of our country, the most recent being a short-wave radio transmitter in Kamalabad, Karaj. According to those involved, it covers two-thirds of the world's countries and sends the voice of the Islamic revolution to the most distant parts of the world. In light of radio's role and the fact that radio waves travel over nations' sea and land boundaries and know no border, in light of the enmity of the West and East to the toddling Iranian Islamic revolution and the fact that more than 30 radios are broadcasting various Farsi-language programs against the revolution at the present, the necessity to expand the country's radio network to combat the round-the-clock propaganda of these radios is felt more and more strongly. The voice of the Islamic revolution will thus reach the world's people ever-more loudly, and in addition to neutralizing this propaganda, can show the true face of the revolution and Islam to the world.

Glancing briefly at the history of the formation and perfection of radio, we understand that it was in WW I that radio receivers and transmitters were used on the war fronts. Many military orders and commands were given to army officers via radio. For this reason a fierce competition began to record and decipher radio messages sent by opposing army commanders. This was also the beginning of the use of propaganda and the broadcast of malicious, false news and messages to other states. This still continues today, intensifying daily. After the end of World War I, important technical advances were made in radio, and broader possibilities for the transmission of radio messages appeared with the help of short wave. At the same time, some of the great powers of that day took action to broadcast programs in various other languages in order to attract the interest and attention of people in other countries and to make propaganda against the differing and sometimes opposing policies in those countries. The USSR in 1929 and Hitler's Germany in 1933 resorted to this approach, and began broadcasting programs to various countries in those countries' languages. Thus other states, either combatting or welcoming these programs, took similar actions.

Although today distances are shrinking daily due to the discovery of the transistor and the use of satellites to transmit radio waves, the world's radio stations unfortunately have in no way preserved their independence and

impartiality, and instead almost all of them obey the policies of their own states and protect their interests. In this area they do not shun any kind of lying or rumormongering. In a ceremony inauguration the powerful Kish Island transmitter, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the president, spoke about our country's radio mission, which is really the SEDA-YE JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, and said: The revolution's message is one of the revolution's most basic issues. It is a reality that the nations' eyes and ears are turned to the revolution, and they want to know the truth about a revolution which has had an enormous effect, they want to be informed about its problems and experiences, and to hear the revolution's message from the lips of those involved in the revolution. After the Islamic revolution, whenever we encountered brothers from various countries, all of them wanted a strengthening of the SEDA-YE JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, so that they could hear the revolution's message as clearly as possible.

During the inaugural ceremonies for the transmitting station, Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of SEDA VA SIMA-YE JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, gave a speech in which he pointed to the eastern and western propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: The war of propaganda against the Islamic republic is several times more extensive than the war of weapons, and at this moment the role of the mass media in the world predominates everything else.

With this transmitter, the Islamic republic can proclaim its message to all Muslim countries and most parts of the world. In the same ceremony, the president spoke about the role of radio and its mission in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: If a country has a message, it must also have a means of proclaiming it. Due to God's favor and the blessing of our revolution, we not only have one of the world's most powerful messages, but one of the most vital and deep-rooted ones of all history, which is that of returning a nation to its human personality and independence. As he continued his speech, the president pointed to the lying propaganda of news imperialism and said: What people today have any confidence in the lying propaganda of the eastern and western superpowers, which are agencies for lying, delusive speechifying? The world's people are not naive, they understand everything. What is important to us is that we can transmit what we want from our country to the hearts of enthusiasts the world over by this means.

Broadcast of Programs in Foreign Languages

Last year Radio Iran broadcast about 9 thousand program hours, of which about 70 percent were pre-recorded, 15 percent were live, and the remainder made up of Iranian and world news. Among the other activities of the brothers and sisters in the area of expanding the country's radio network, the international network of SEDA VA SIMA-YE JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI (the national and foreign languages unit) had the mission of transmitting the message of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world, and giving it truthful news about the Islamic revolution. In connection with informing the world, both at home and abroad, about the life-giving ideology of Islam, this unit had over 30 thousand hours of programs in foreign languages, including Arabic, English, Kurdish, Pashto, Armenian, Iranian Turkish, Turkish, Bengali Urdu, French, German, Spanish and Russian, which were broadcast from Tehran and other provincial centers.

Interview with Director of Radio Iran

We interviewed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Abtahi, director of Radio Iran, about the general role of radio and its effects in raising the society's cultural level. Concerning the role of radio in society, he said: In today's interconnected society, communication has the greatest role. Since the strongest tie between society's members is a cultural one, we can understand the true role of the mass media. Because of all the mass media radio has the greatest range and provides greater coverage, because it is inexpensive and has the capacity for greater utilization compared to the other mass media, we can say that on the whole it has a closer and more organic connection with all of society's elements. If we consider that in our society a high percentage are not blessed with literacy, radio's role in society becomes even clearer. Because SEDA-YE JOMHURI-YE ELSMAI is a crystallization of the totality of the cries of the world's suffering and oppressed, we feel that the cry of the Islamic revolution involves great commitments for us and others involved. In light of this we can summarize the overall mission of SEDA-YE JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in one sentence: "Our goal is to create a rich Islamic culture which originates from the revolution's ideas and leadership." This generality must govern every radio program, meaning that when an economic program is recorded and broadcast, it must be oriented towards the Islamic economy. In the same way the other programs must have an Islamic orientation.

On the subject of radio planning, the director of Radio Iran said: Several months ago the requisite planning was done with the help of the brothers. Our effort was based on creating a new chapter in radio so that we can strengthen our connections with the people as much as possible, since any media that can strengthen its ties with the people will on principle be more successful in its work. For example, if we were to have great ideas on radio, but they were not couched in the everyday language of society, we would never succeed in our work. Concerning art programs, the radio director said: One of radio's basic missions is to present art in its own language. We have tried very hard to strengthen this language, and the evidence of our claim is our art programs which are broadcast by the radio during the day. Our wish was to perform radio programs in the language of art as far as possible. We feel that principles of belief and Islamic ethics is unfortunately an area of weakness in our society. We have thus tried to utilize the whole group of personalities who have the confidence of the revolution and the leadership to deliver ethical talks. We have tried also not to put the radio in any way under the control of any special group or movement. He continued: At the present time Radio Iran has programs 24 hours a day, which is unparalleled in the Middle East. It is also necessary to note that program preparation faces special difficulties. Our revolutionary society is very strict in the broadcast area, and we have political problems as well. For example, other countries use music in various radio programs, but in our 24 hours of daily programming we only use music where it is permitted during inter-program intervals. More than 12 hours of these 24 hours are pre-recorded programs, and the remainder, which are mostly evening programs, are broadcast live. In regards to what issues radio programs pursue, he said: The largest percentage of radio programs are concerned with social issues, and another portion involve the imposed war. Literary, artistic, economic and political programs make up the remainder. The radio director said: I here take the opportunity to invite those involved in literature and the arts, and persons acquainted with ethical issues, to work with us as much as they are able to enrich these programs.

INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS SAID TO HAVE ACQUIRED 'A GOOD TEMPO'

BK221651 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The talks between India and Pakistan at the foreign secretaries level on improving bilateral relations have acquired a good tempo. In the meanwhile, several high level visits between the leaders of the two countries have also been announced. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat's, visit originally scheduled for February last will now take place from the 7th to the 11th of July. Three Pakistani ministers will be visiting India in the next 4 months. From Pakistan, the foreign minister, Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, will be in New Delhi for the next meeting of the joint commission, which is to be held early in August. The planning minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, will visit India in August or September. The third minister visiting the country will be Pakistan's minister for agriculture, Vice Admiral Fazil Janjua.

Today's session between the two foreign secretaries, Mr Rasgotra and Mr Niaz A. Naik, was held in the hill resort of Murree near Islamabad. The All India Radio special correspondent Manohar Takroo reporting from Murree says the examination of the two proposals for a treaty of peace and a no-war pact has now moved on from the conceptual stage to the detailed consideration of a text.

CSO: 4600/590

BRIEFS

MRD PROTEST ACTION--In Pakistan, the 11-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy [MRD] has asked the party workers to support the call given by the Punjab Bar Council to observe black day today in protest against the policies of the military government. The MRD Central Committee met in Peshawar yesterday without its top leaders. About 20 MRD leaders and party workers were prevented from attending the meeting by the military government. They were either detained or served with orders, banning their entry into the Northwest Frontier Province. The Central Committee condemned the steps taken by the authorities, and noted that there is a national consensus on holding of elections under the 1973 constitution and transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people. [Text] [BK300419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 May 84]

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